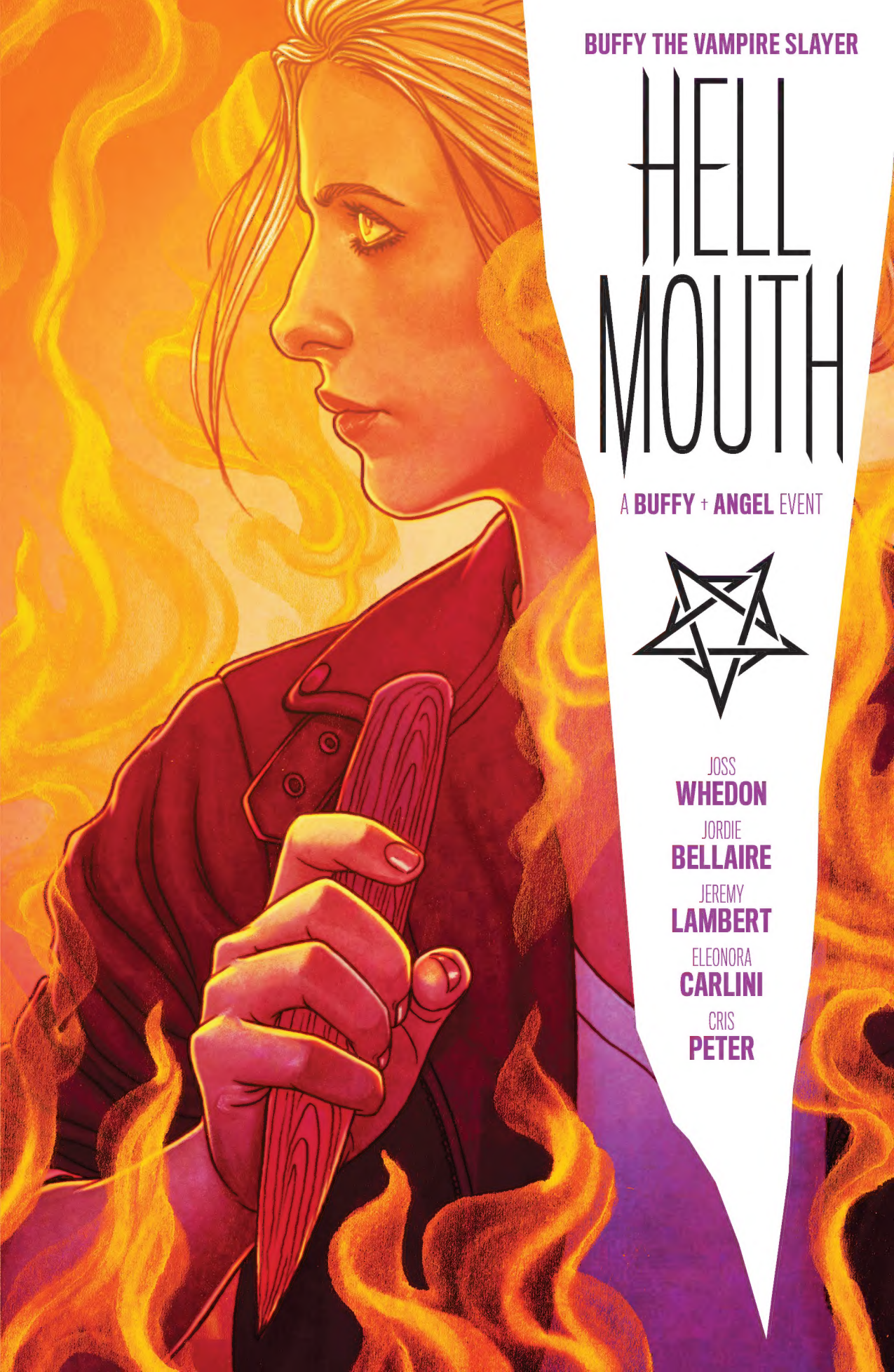
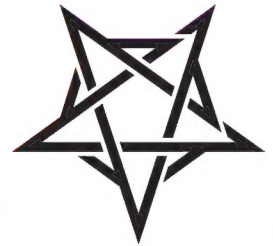




BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

# HELL MOUTH

A **BUFFY** + **ANGEL** EVENT



JOSS  
**WHEDON**

JORDIE  
**BELLAIRE**

JEREMY  
**LAMBERT**

ELEONORA  
**CARLINI**

CRIS  
**PETER**



CREATED BY **JOSS WHEDON**

JORDIE **BELLAIRE**   JEREMY **LAMBERT**   ELEONORA **CARLINI**   CRIS **PETER**

A **BUFFY + ANGEL** EVENT

# HELLMOUTH

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STUDIOS



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LIMITED EDITION COVER BY

**KYLE LAMBERT**

# CHAPTER **ONE**







HUNGER.



A PAIN UNLIKE ANY  
OTHER...AND ALL  
TOO FAMILIAR.



STRONGER THAN THE  
BOREDOM...THE  
ANTICIPATION. GNAWS  
YOU FROM WITHIN.



BUT SOON, MY  
FEAST BEGINS.

AND I WILL  
TEAR THIS  
WORLD APART.





THE PROPHECIES.  
THE LEGENDS.  
ALL LEADING TO  
THIS...MY DESTINY.

THE HELLMOUTH, AND  
ITS INFERNAL ARMY,  
WILL BE UNLEASHED...



...ALL UNDER MY  
COMMAND.

PRETTY.

IT CALLS...  
SPEAKS TO  
ME...

"WHEN THE **KEY**  
TASTES THE BLOOD OF THE  
LOYAL, THE ACTIVATION BEGINS."  
DO YOU SEE, WILLIAM? THERE HAD  
TO BE A **CONNECTION**, OR IT  
WOULDN'T WORK. AND I ONLY  
HAVE ONE OF THOSE, DON'T I?  
YOU WERE ALWAYS THE **KEY** TO  
OPENING THE HELLMOUTH AS  
MUCH AS THE DAGGER WAS,  
MY LOVE.

GO!  
RUN!

NEXT TIME, DRUSILLA,  
I'D APPRECIATE A WARNING  
BEFORE YOU PLUNGE A  
DAGGER IN ME AND OPEN A  
BLOODY HELLMOUTH--

TUT TUT,  
**ACTIVATED**, NOT  
OPENED. NOT  
YET.

PLENTY  
OF SCRAPS LEFT  
UNDER THE TABLE  
FOR YOU TO FEED ON, LITTLE  
PUP. BUT NOT TO WORRY,  
THERE WILL BE **SUCH** A  
FEAST, WHEN I RISE  
AGAIN...

WAIT!

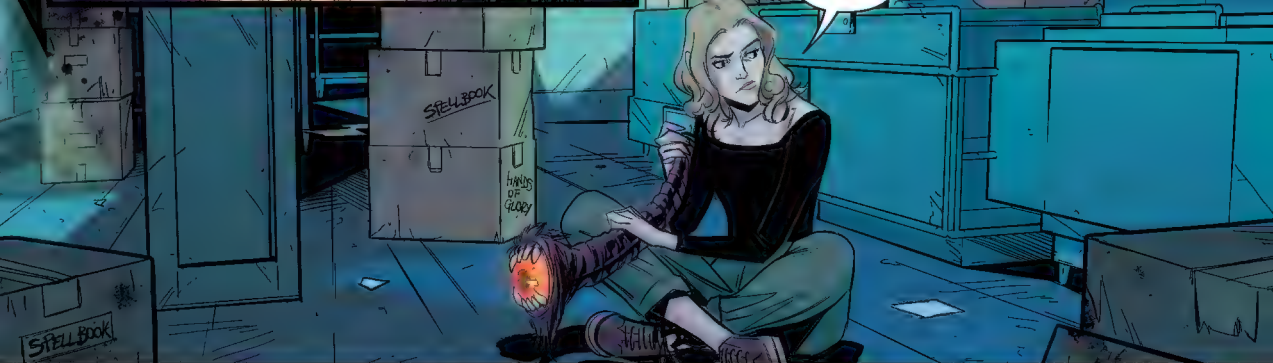








THAT  
REALLY  
SEALS THE  
DEAL.

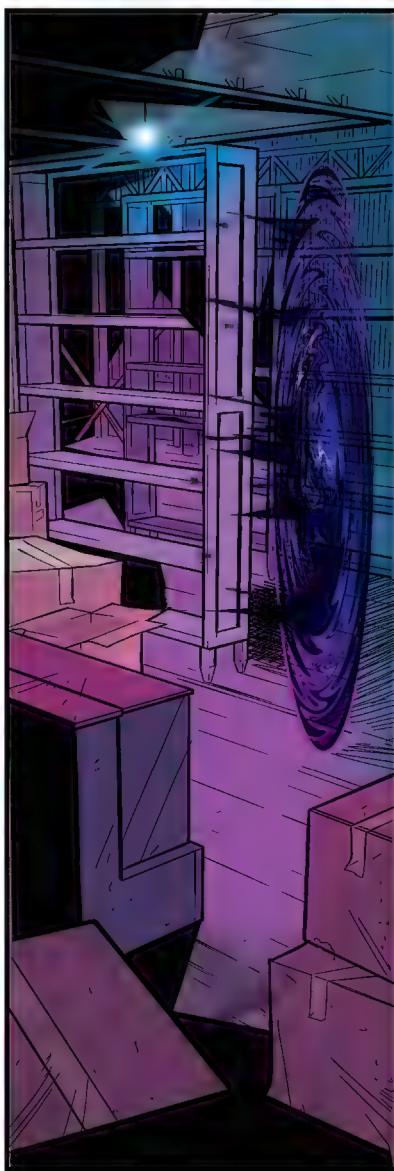


HEH.  
UGH.

MOVING  
SUCKS.



JUST FOUND  
THAT 24/7 DINER, TOO...  
SOMETHING TELLS ME THE  
HELLSPAWN AREN'T GONNA  
DIG THOSE MIDNIGHT  
HUEVOS ENOUGH TO KEEP  
THE PLACE OPEN--



CRASH





ANYA! ANYA, PLEASE, IT'S... THE KEY'S ACTIVATED, DRUSILLA'S ON HER WAY TO OPEN THE HELLMOUTH...

SHE STABBED HER... HER LOVER, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE RITUAL, BUT ALL THE SAME--

THOSE ARTIFACTS TOOK ME EIGHTY YEARS TO FIND, WATCHER. IF YOU WEREN'T ON A LIBRARIAN'S SALARY, I'D MAKE YOU PAY FOR 'EM.



SHE NEEDS THE BLOOD OF A **DEMON** FOR THE KEY TO ACTIVATE, AND THE BLOOD OF A **MORTAL** TO OPEN THE SEAL. GOTTA SACRIFICE ONE OF YOUR OWN AND ONE FROM THE OTHER TEAM.

TRICKY, THOSE HELLMOUTHS. SEEMS DRU GOT THE TOUGH ONE OUT OF THE WAY FIRST WITH THAT PLATINUM PRINCE OF HERS AND IT'S--



OPEN SEASON! IF DRUSILLA GETS TO THE SEAL BEFORE BUFFY, SUNNYPALE WON'T JUST BE IN YOUR REARVIEW MIRROR.

IN YOUR PORTAL... BACKWARDS... VISION, OH, SOP IT... **NOTHING** WILL!

SUNNYPALE WILL BE WIPED OFF THE MAP ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE!

I'VE SEEN CITIES FALL A TIME OR TWO, GILES, AND NOT JUST IN A BOOK. I'VE TRIED TO CHANGE THINGS BEFORE. NEVER WORKS. NOW, THIS SHOP IS WHAT I HAVE.



PORTENTS AND PROPHECIES. THEY'VE GOT SOME POWER TO THEM... AND IT'S GREATER THAN MINE.

BUT IS IT GREATER THAN **OURS**? THAN EVERYONE'S HERE? BUFFY-- THE SLAYER'S STRENGTH ALONE IS CONSIDERABLE, BUT HER SPIRIT, HER HEART, IS TWICE THE MATCH OF--

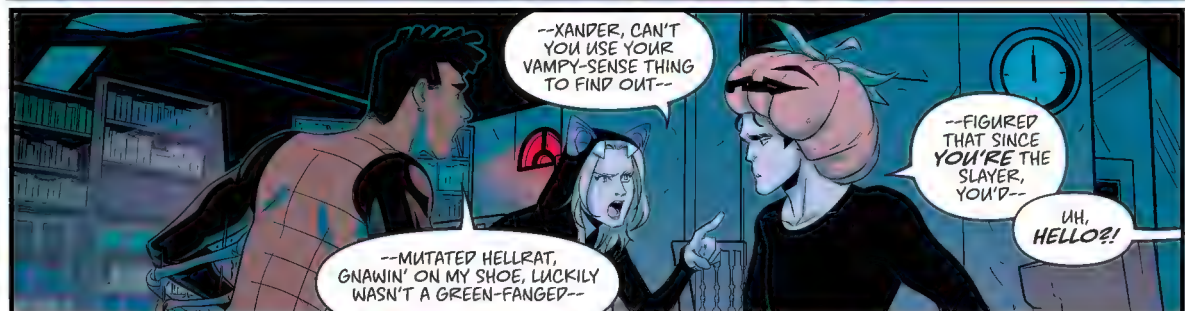


YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING. I CAN'T DO THIS FOR YOU. I'M SORRY.



THEN I'VE FAILED. EVERYTHING RESTS WITH BUFFY ALONE...

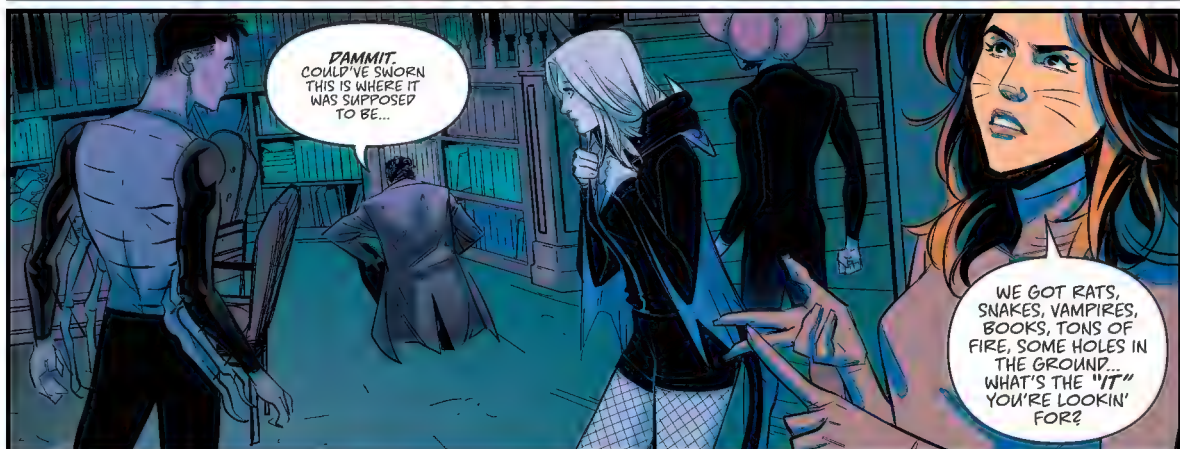




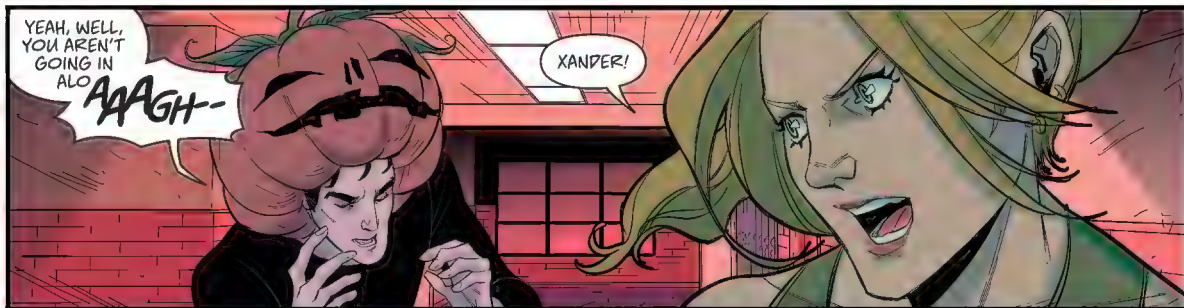














"...PROMISE."

YIKES...

HEY!  
HOLD  
ON!

GOTCHA--

HI!  
BE MORE  
CAREFUL,  
PLEASE!

NO  
BITING!

YIKESYIKES  
YIKES--HEY,  
WAIT UP!







WE GET IT, YOU'RE SOOO FAST...STOP WITH THE RUNNING!



GO BACK! THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS. SHE'S HERE--

WHO?

DRUSILLA.

...YOU SAW HER?

WAIT, HOW DO YOU EVEN KNOW HER?

LOOK, THAT FIRE IS A GIGANTIC NEON SIGN IN THE SKY, POINTING **RIGHT** AT US.

WE'RE ABOUT TO BE SWARMED BY MUCH WORSE THAN RATS AND SNAKES...ALL OF WHICH WILL JUMP AT THE CHANCE TO KILL THE **SLAYER**.

NO BIG. I'M GAME.

...YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ANYONE.

NOPE!

AND WHEN THIS IS OVER, YOU AND ME, WE'RE GONNA HAVE A LITTLE CHAT ABOUT HOW YOU KNOW ALL THIS SLAYER BUSINESS.

WHICH USED TO BE A **SECRET** BY THE WAY.





DO THIS LONG ENOUGH AND YOU LEARN THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS SECRETS WHEN IT COMES TO THIS STUFF.

SOUNDS LIKE HIGH SCHOOL.

LISTEN, I SAW YOU. DOWN THERE.

DOWN WHERE, CREEP-O?

WHAT? NO. IN THE HELLMOUTH. SURROUNDED BY FIRE, DEMONS, VAMPIRES...

YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE EVERYTHING ON, THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS. THAT'S HOW YOU GET KILLED AND I GET SADDLED WITH THE GUILT OF LETTING IT HAPPEN.

ONE, UH... STOP POINTING, JIMINY CRICKET. TWO, I'M THE SLAYER. THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I DO. THREE, SINCE YOU ARE CLEARLY BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE AND KNOW ABSOLUTELY EVERYTHING, YOU'D KNOW MY BEST FRIEND'S GHOSTING ME--

--I MEAN, HALF HER SOUL IS GONE, TOUGH TO FAULT HER ON THAT--

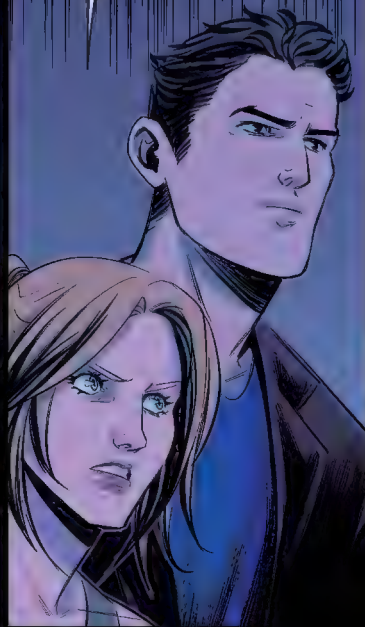
--GILES NEVER LET'S UP, AND--

NOT TO MENTION YOUR OTHER PAL BACK THERE IS A VAMPIRE.

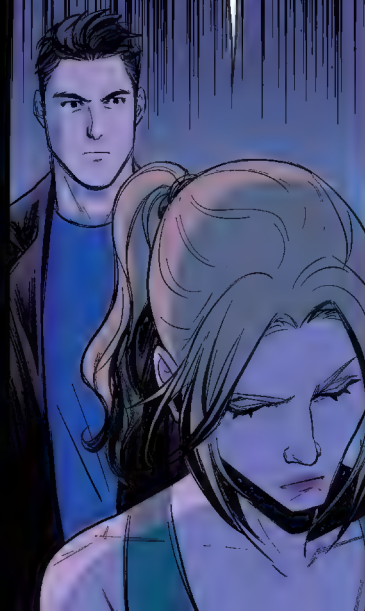


OH GREAT, HOW'D YOU DISCOVER THAT TRUTH BOMB?

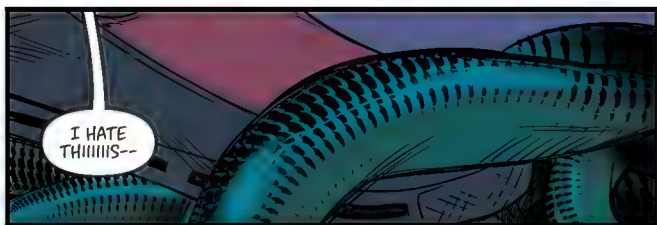
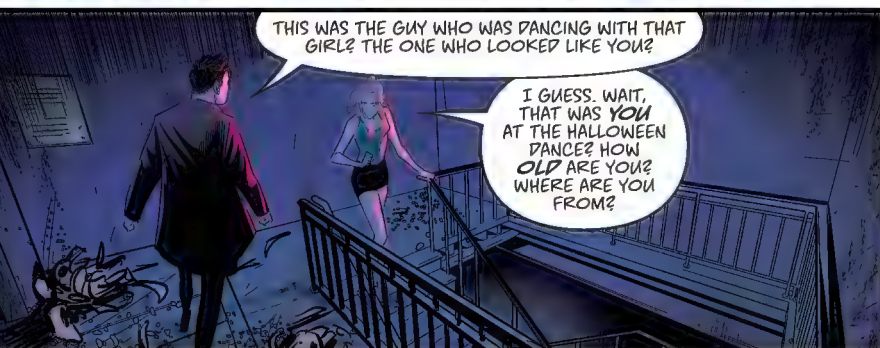
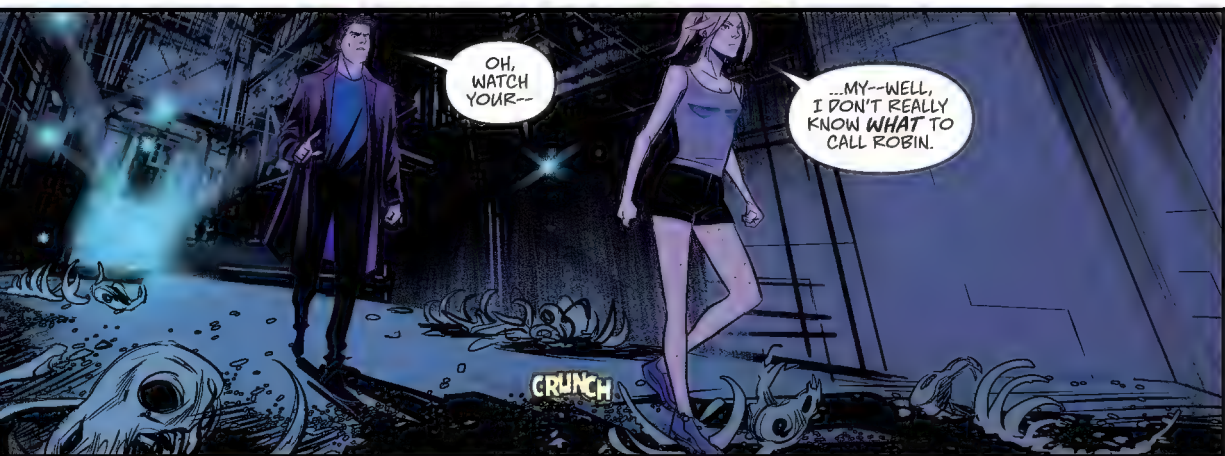
HE, UH, HE HAD A VIBE. SEEMED LIKE A JERK.



HALF-VAMPIRE, ACTUALLY, AND NO, NOT A JERK... WHEN HE'S NOT ALL VAMP-FACE. AND LET'S NOT FORGET MY...









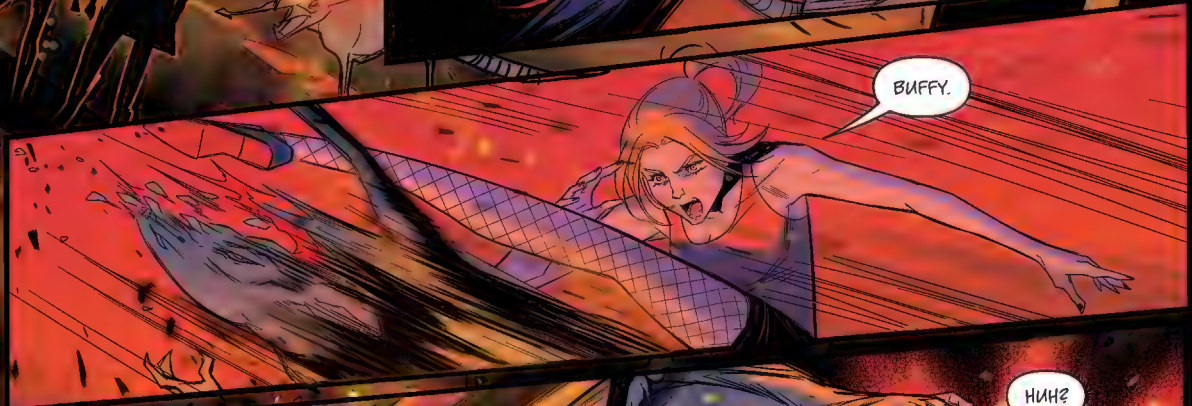


HERE  
WE GO.

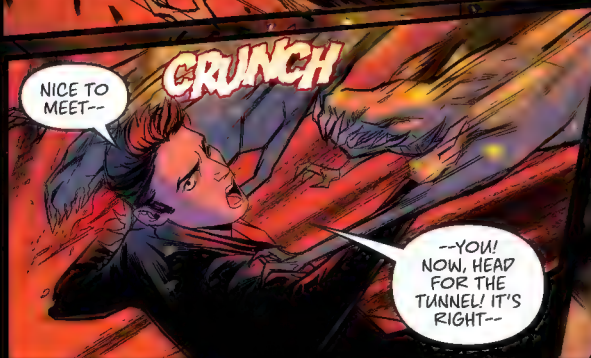
WELL. IT  
WAS NICE  
KNOWIN' YOU,  
DUDE THAT  
DOESN'T EVEN  
GO HERE--



IT'S  
ANGEL.



BUFFY.



NICE TO  
MEET--

**CRUNCH**

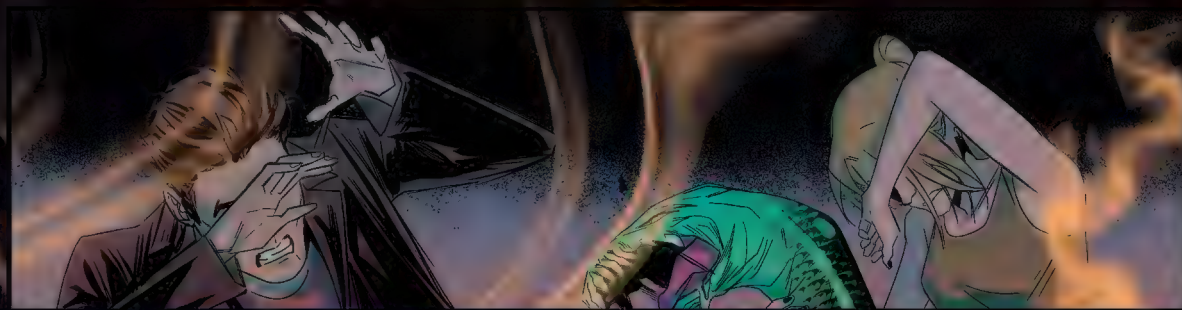
--YOW!  
NOW, HEAD  
FOR THE  
TUNNEL! IT'S  
RIGHT--



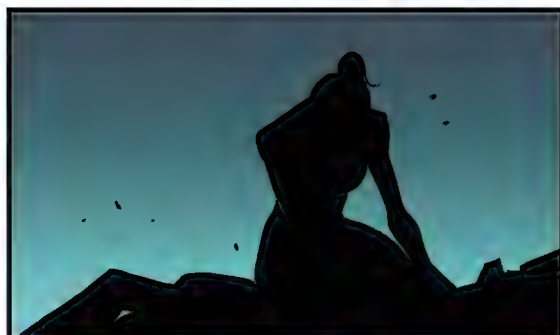
HUH?

NO!

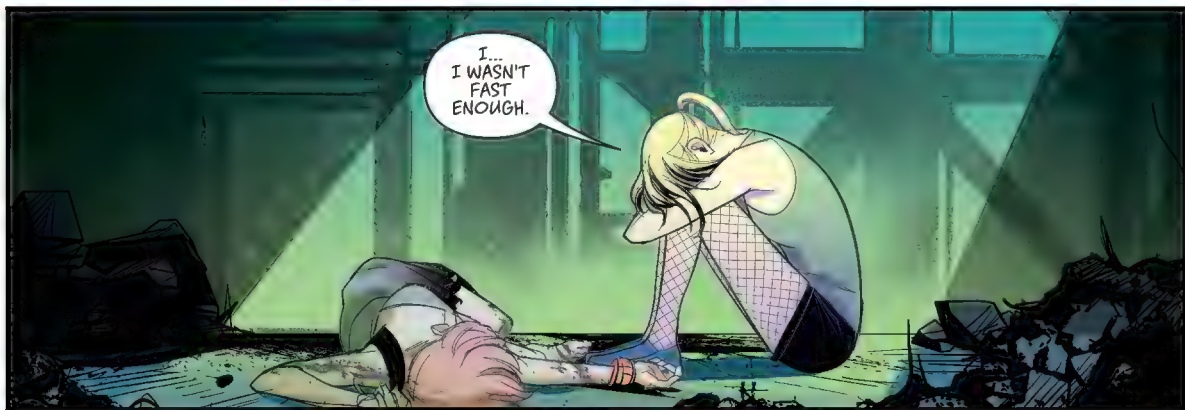
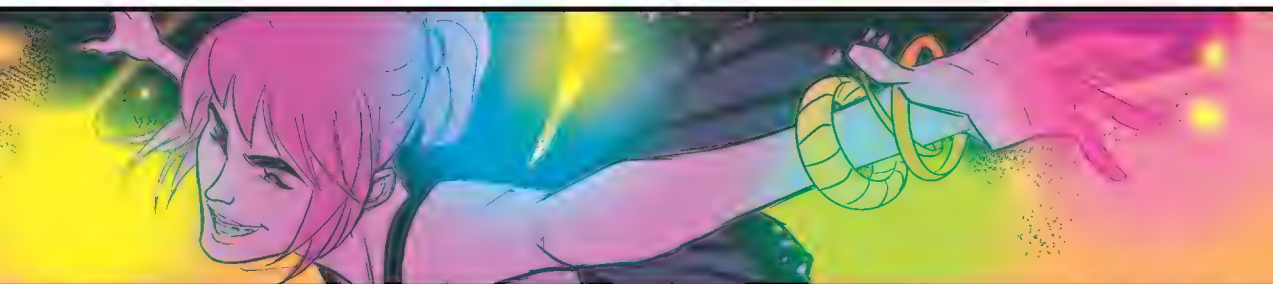
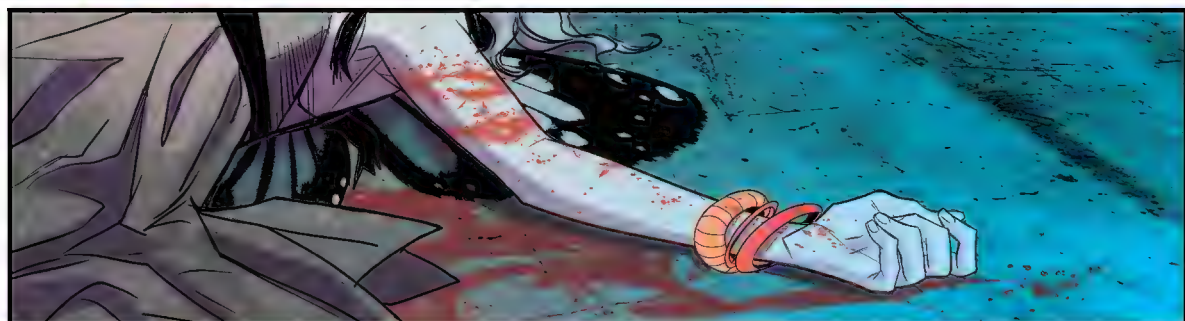
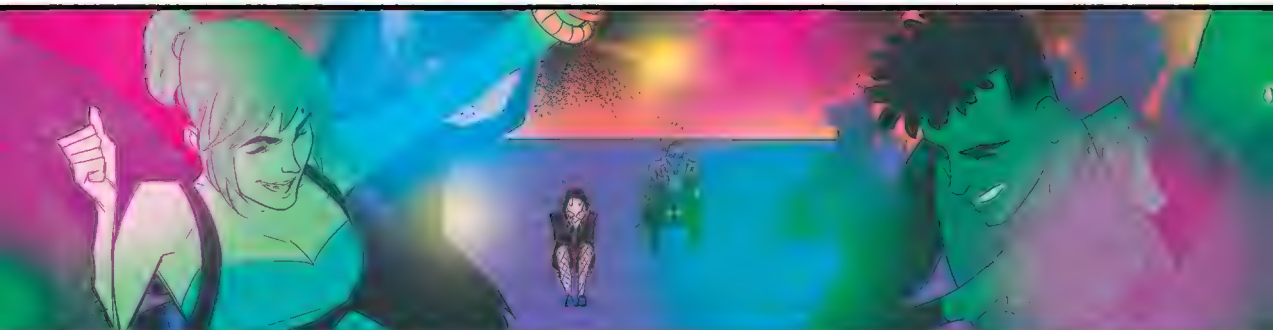
















I COULD  
HAVE SAVED  
HER...

I COULD  
HAVE DONE  
SOMETHING,  
I...

YOU  
CAN DO  
SOMETHING.  
NOW.



IS THAT  
WHAT'S GOING  
TO HAPPEN TO  
MY FRIENDS? TO  
SUNNYDALE?



TO  
EVERYTHING...

...IF WE  
DON'T CLOSE  
THIS.

WILL WE  
BE COMING  
BACK?

I DON'T  
KNOW.

RIGHT.  
WELL.



"...ONLY ONE  
WAY TO FIND  
OUT."



FINALLY



THE  
HELLMOUTH  
IS OPEN.

MY DESTINY  
NEARS.

MY HUNGER FADES WITH  
EACH PASSING MOMENT. MY  
THIRST...SLAKED MORE  
THAN EVER BEFORE.

ALL THE  
SAME...





...THIS IS  
JUST THE  
BEGINNING.

COME,  
CHILD.

YOUR  
DESTINY  
AWAITS...



...AND IT IS TO REIGN  
OVER NOTHING MORE  
THAN SHACKLES AND  
CHAINS, VAMPIRE.

FOR HOW COULD  
YOU HAVE EVER  
HOPED TO  
MASTER ME?



# CHAPTER **TWO**







MY NAMES ARE  
MANIFOLD. MY  
DEEDS LEGEND.

IN EVERY KNOWN  
CORNER...AND  
THOSE LONG  
FORGOTTEN.



I AM LIGHT TO  
SOME. SHADOW  
TO OTHERS.



BUT YOU NEED  
NOT ENTER THE DARK  
TO GLIMPSE MY  
INFERNAL WORLD.



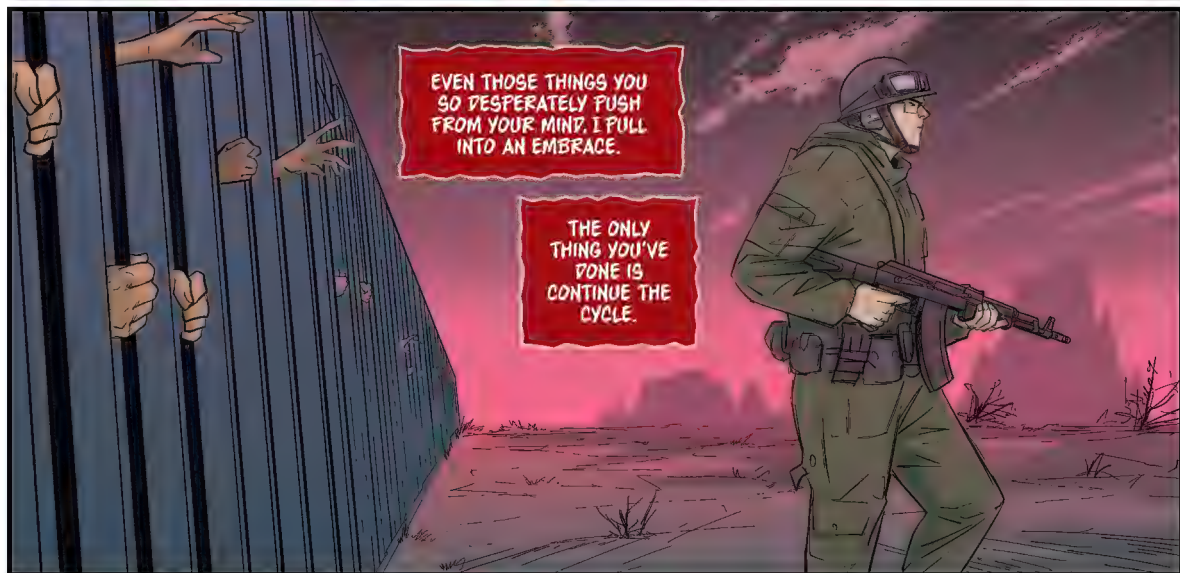






IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS.  
VIOLENCE. IN THOUGHT OR ACTION.  
PRIVATE OR PUBLIC...IT MATTERS NOT.

I AM  
NO PICKY  
EATER.



EVEN THOSE THINGS YOU  
SO DESPERATELY PUSH  
FROM YOUR MIND. I PULL  
INTO AN EMBRACE.

THE ONLY  
THING YOU'VE  
DONE IS  
CONTINUE THE  
CYCLE.



WHAT YOU'VE THROWN  
TO THE WOLVES HAS  
BEEN GOBBLED UP. WE  
ARE RAVENOUS FOR  
ANOTHER BITE.

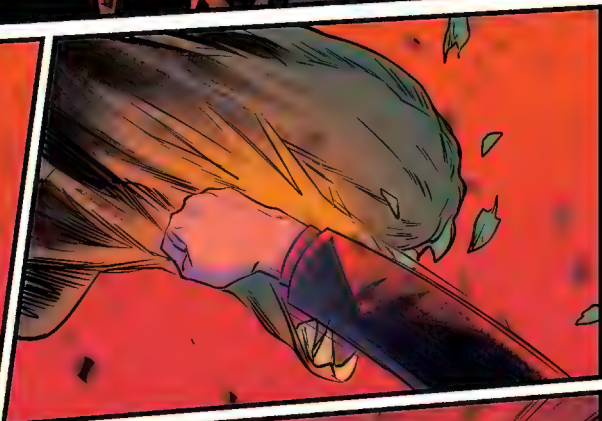
YOUR WORST  
MEMORIES ARE  
DELICIOUS.





...NOT TRYING  
TO TELL YOU  
HOW TO DO  
YOUR JOB OR  
ANYTHING...

...JUST  
THINKING A  
LITTLE BIT OF  
STEALTH GOES A  
LONG WAY, IS  
ALL.



C'MON, ANGEL,  
THEY WERE RIGHT  
THERE, WHAT WAS I  
SUPPOSED TO DO,  
LET 'EM ROAM  
FREE?



THAT'S NOT  
WHAT I'M SAYING! IT'S  
DRUSILLA WE'RE AFTER,  
EVERYTHING ELSE IS A  
DISTRACTION--



YEAH, FULLY  
AWARE, BUT I'M NOT  
LETTING ANY OL' DEMON  
OR VAMPIRE RUN FREE  
JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE  
NOT **DRUSILLA**, QUEEN  
OF THE HELLMOUTH.

SHE'S THE ONE  
CONTROLLING THE  
HELLMOUTH, SO IF  
WE CUT OFF THE  
HEAD...





REAL MONSTERS DON'T ANNOUNCE THEMSELVES OR PRESENT OPPORTUNITIES. NOT HERE.

THEY ENTER YOUR HEAD, YOUR HEART, TEAR AT YOU FROM WITHIN...



THANKS, GANDALF. LOOK, I'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS. YOU DON'T NEED TO TAKE ME UNDER YOUR WING, I'M...

I'M OVER YOUR WING, OKAY? THIS IS WHAT I DO, AND--



AND I'VE BEEN DOING IT A LOT LONGER THAN YOU HAVE, BUFFY.

OOOH, CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'RE IN COLLEGE.



WAIT, ARE YOU IN A FRAT? PLEASE DON'T BE IN A FRAT.



JUST KEEP MOVING. THE--





WE K.O.'D  
THOSE DEMONS,  
RIGHT?

YEAH.

WE ARE  
ULFRETH. WILLING  
SACRIFICES. THE  
MOTHER AWAITS  
YOU.

KNEEL,  
AND YOU WILL  
EXPERIENCE  
LESS PAIN  
HERE.

OKAY,  
SO THERE'S A  
HELLMOTHER?  
THIS PLACE GETS  
BETTER AND BETTER.  
AND DID THEY...DID  
THEY JUST--

YEAH.

THEY  
INTRODUCED  
THEMSELVES, RIGHT?  
LIKE THE THING  
YOU SAID THEY  
DIDN'T--

YUP.

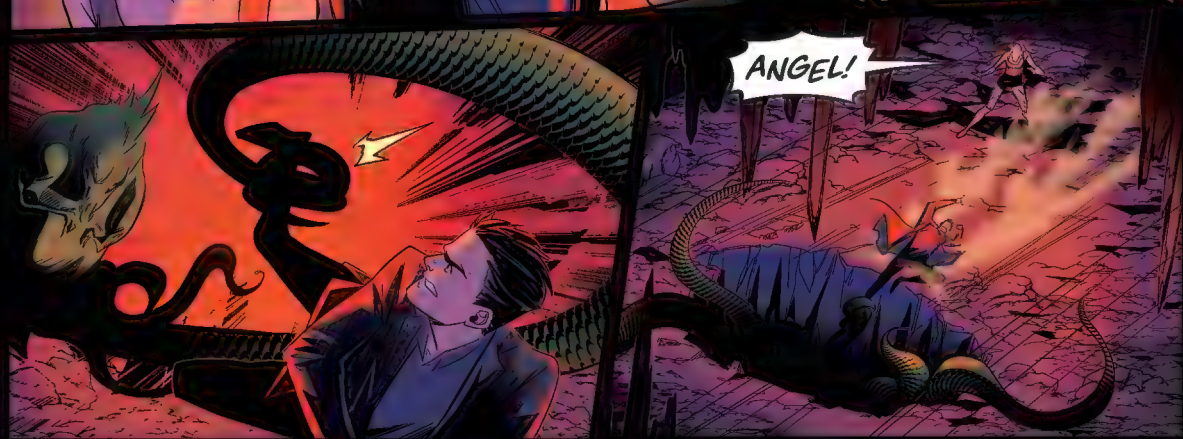
SO THEN--  
SUCH WILLING  
SACRIFICES.



COOL, COOL,  
WOULDN'T RUB  
THAT IN.

HEY LISTEN,  
DISCOUNT  
MEDUSA, WHY  
DON'T YOU  
JUST--

ACK--!



ANGEL!





ANGEL?!



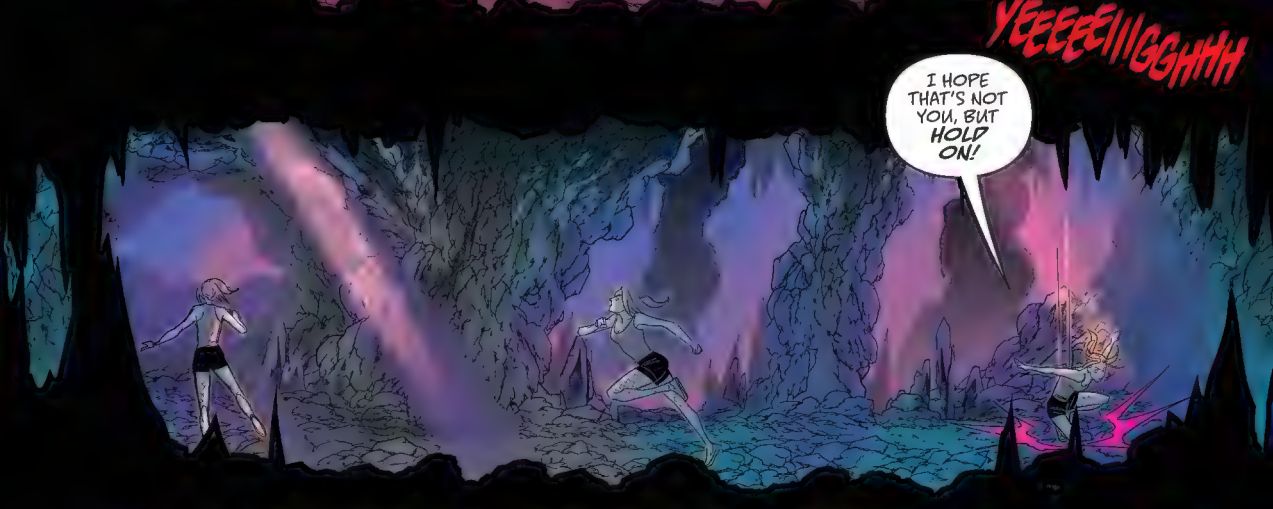
NO...



NO NO NO!

PLEASE DON'T DIE!

THIS PLACE IS TOO WEIRD TO BE STUCK HERE ON MY--



YEEEEEEIIII GGGHHH

I HOPE THAT'S NOT YOU, BUT HOLD ON!

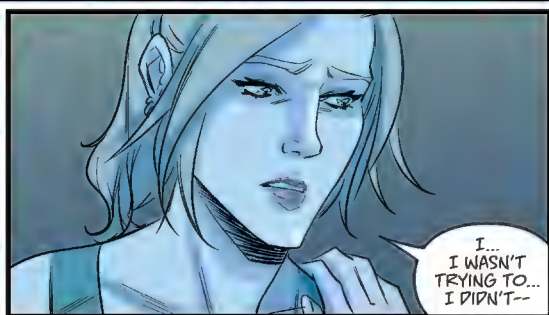
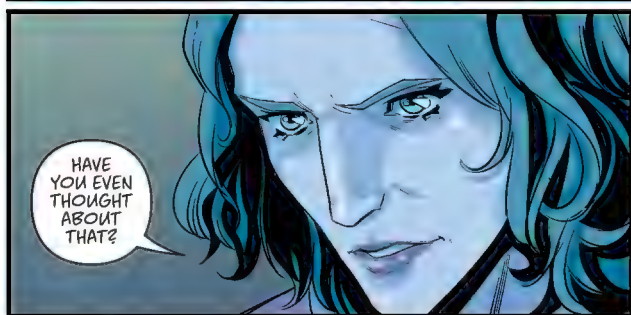


ANGEL, WHERE ARE--







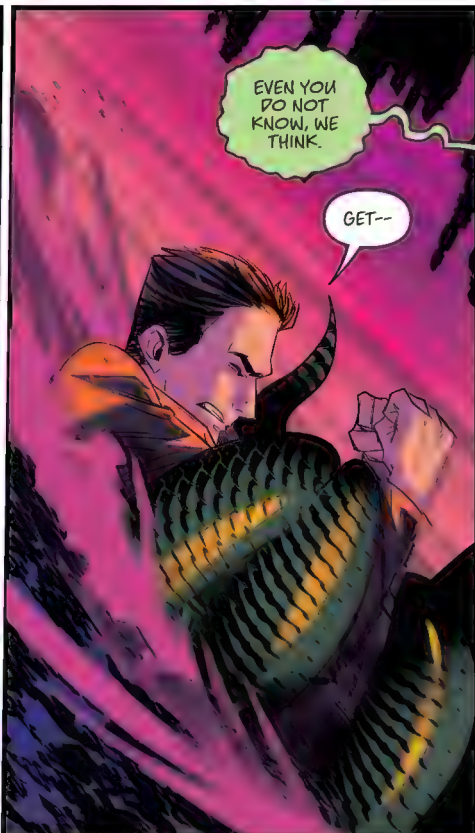






"...I'M  
SORRY."

AND WHO  
ARE YOU,  
VAMPIRE?



EVEN YOU  
DO NOT  
KNOW, WE  
THINK.

GET--



WE DO NOT ENVY  
THE QUESTIONS YOU  
MUST ANSWER.

--OUT--

BUT WE  
KNOW  
YOU.

WE  
HAVE YOU,  
NOW.

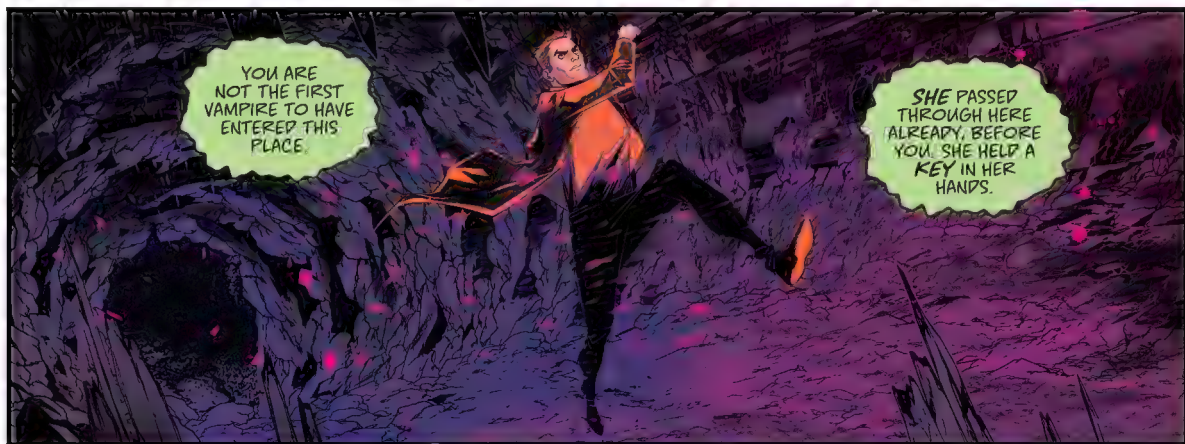


WHOEVER  
YOU ARE...  
YOU ARE  
OURS.

--OF MY  
HEAD!







YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST VAMPIRE TO HAVE ENTERED THIS PLACE.

SHE PASSED THROUGH HERE ALREADY, BEFORE YOU. SHE HELD A KEY IN HER HANDS.



WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOURS?

WE SEE NOTHING HERE.

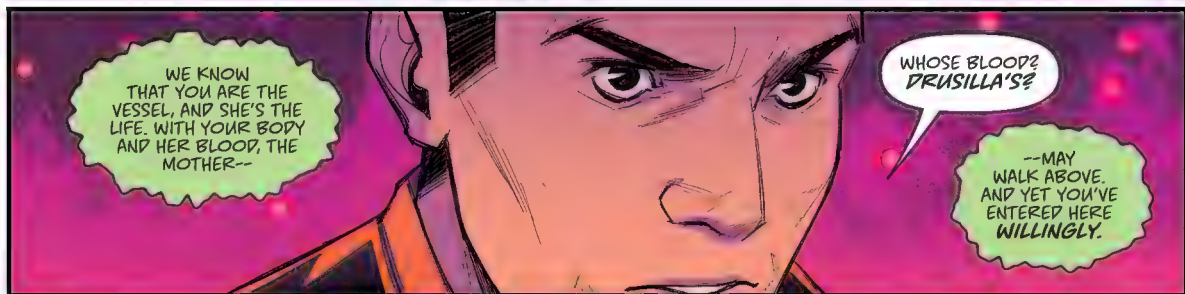
ANYONE EVER SAID YOU TALK TOO MUCH?



NOTHING OTHER THAN GUILT. REGRET.

YOU DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT ME--

FOR THE LIVES WE DIDN'T GET TO LIVE.



WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE VESSEL, AND SHE'S THE LIFE. WITH YOUR BODY AND HER BLOOD, THE MOTHER--

WHOSE BLOOD? DRUSILLA'S?

--MAY WALK ABOVE. AND YET YOU'VE ENTERED HERE WILLINGLY.



WHOSE BLOOD?!

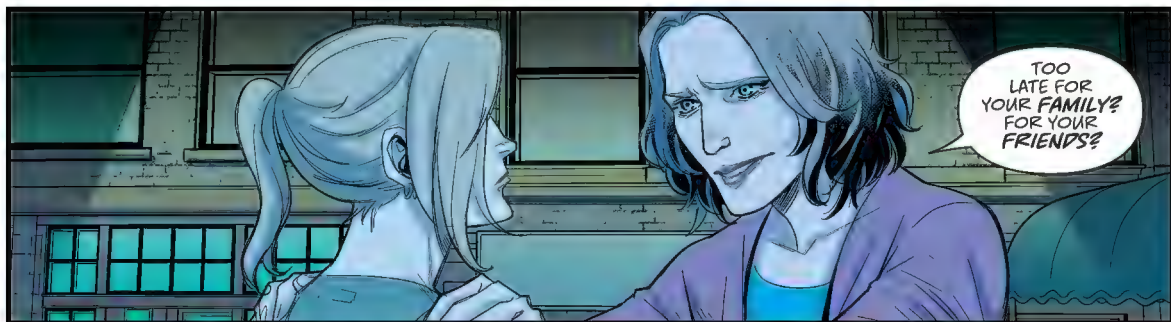
NO!

BUFFY!

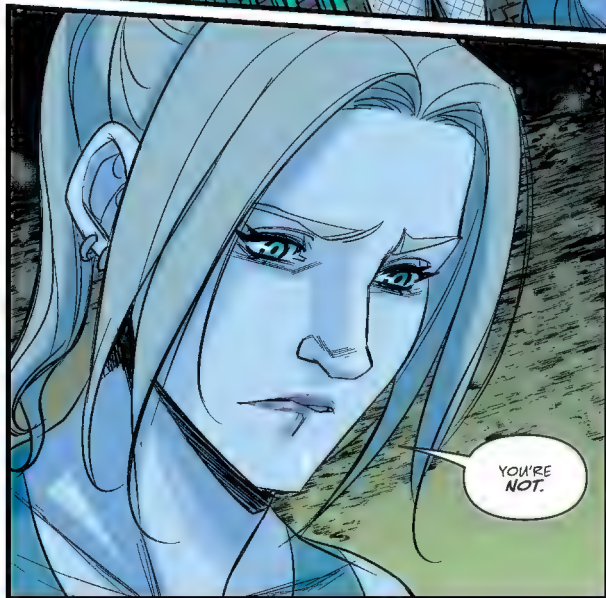
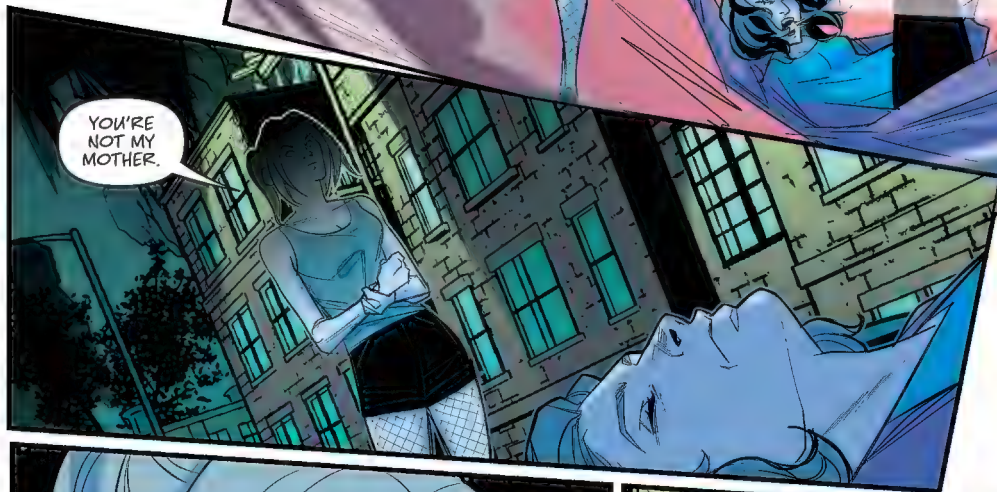
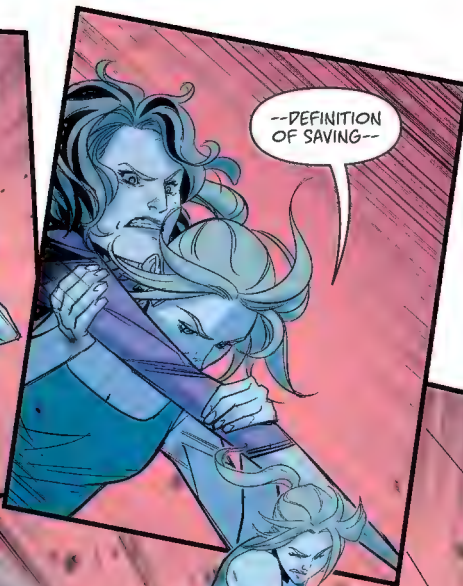


"IS IT ALREADY TOO LATE?"

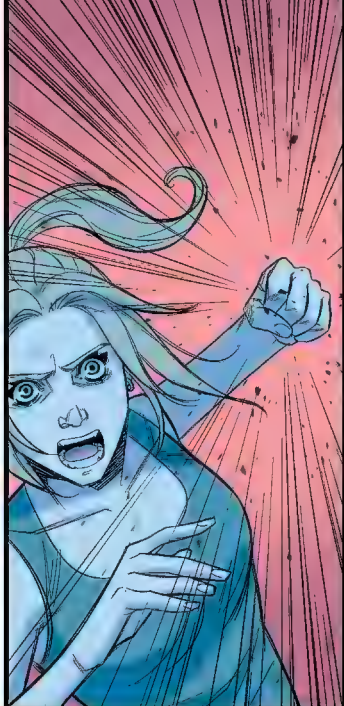
















YOU'RE  
RIGHT. I'M...  
I'M SORRY.  
ARE YOU  
OKAY?



I JUST THREW MY  
**MOTHER** INTO A  
STONE WALL SO HARD  
IT SHOULD HAVE  
CRACKED HER HEAD  
OPEN, WHAT DO  
YOU THINK?



YEAH. I...I  
KNOW. FOR ME  
IT WAS...ULFRETH  
BECAME FRIENDS  
OF MINE.

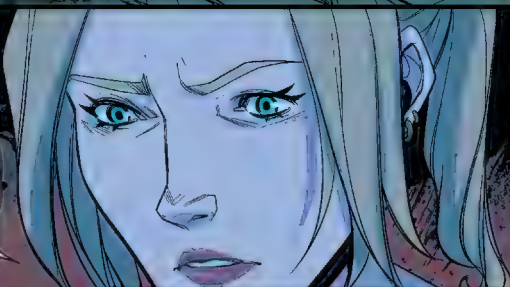
FRIENDS I  
WASN'T THERE  
FOR...IN TIME.

FRIENDS  
I COULDN'T  
**SAVE.**



IT WANTED TO  
SEPARATE US. IF  
YOU'RE ALONE  
DOWN HERE, WITH  
ALL THAT...YOU  
WON'T LAST  
LONG.

THEY'RE  
GONNA DO  
EVERYTHING THEY  
CAN TO WIPE US  
OUT. WE SHOULD  
ADMIT IT'S  
MANIPULATING  
US--LIKE YOU  
JUST DID.



**THE MORE  
YOU KNOW,  
YOU KNOW?**



...  
SEE, THIS  
IS A START.  
THIS IS  
GOOD.

DOESN'T  
FEEL  
GOOD.

FEELS LIKE  
GETTING  
**STABBED** A  
BUNCH OF TIMES  
WITH TINY  
KNIVES.









REMINDE  
ME AGAIN  
THAT NONE  
OF THIS IS  
REAL?

EVERYTHING'S  
FINE. WE'RE  
GONNA SAVE THE  
DAY. NO ONE'S  
GONNA DIE...

THANKS  
FOR THE  
CONVINCING  
PEP TALK.

BACK UP TO  
THE STAIRWELL.  
DON'T GET  
SURROUNDED.

NO PROBLEM.  
JUST LIKE  
THERMOPYLAE.

NO  
IDEA WHAT  
THAT MEANS,  
ANGEL.

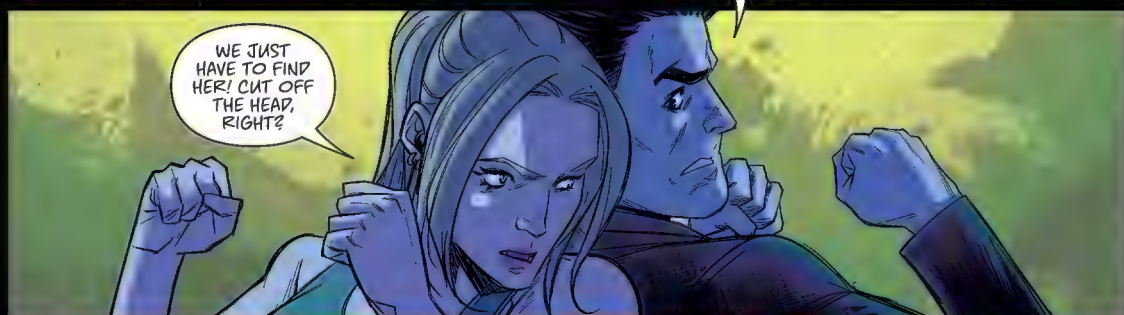
FORGET  
IT.





DRUSILLA  
MUST ALREADY  
HAVE COMMAND  
OF THESE  
THINGS.

WE CAN'T  
TAKE THEM  
ALL.



WE JUST  
HAVE TO FIND  
HER! CUT OFF  
THE HEAD,  
RIGHT?



BUFFY,  
I THINK WE'RE  
SURROUNDED.

WELL,  
THERE GOES  
THERMOMETER.

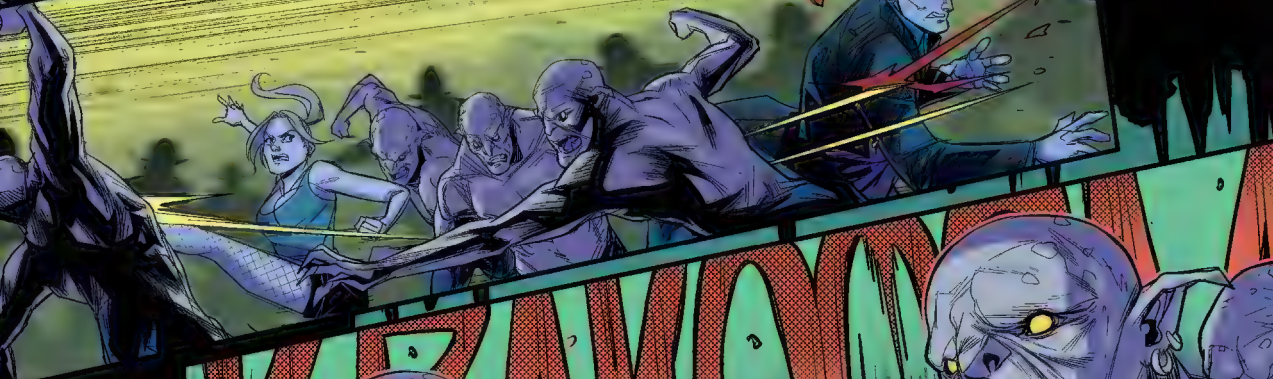
THERMOPYLAE--

START  
PUNCHING  
NOW!



YAAAGHH









...RUNNING  
TOWARD  
SOMETHING...

YOUR  
SHOULDER--

IT'S  
FINE.

DIDN'T  
SEEM  
FINE...

AND  
NEITHER  
DOES  
THIS...

ANGEL!

INJURED  
LITTLE PONE, I  
SMELL IT...

WAIT,  
BUFFY!

ANGEL, IT'S  
HER! IF SHE SENDS  
THOSE THINGS BACK,  
WE DON'T STAND A  
CHANCE!



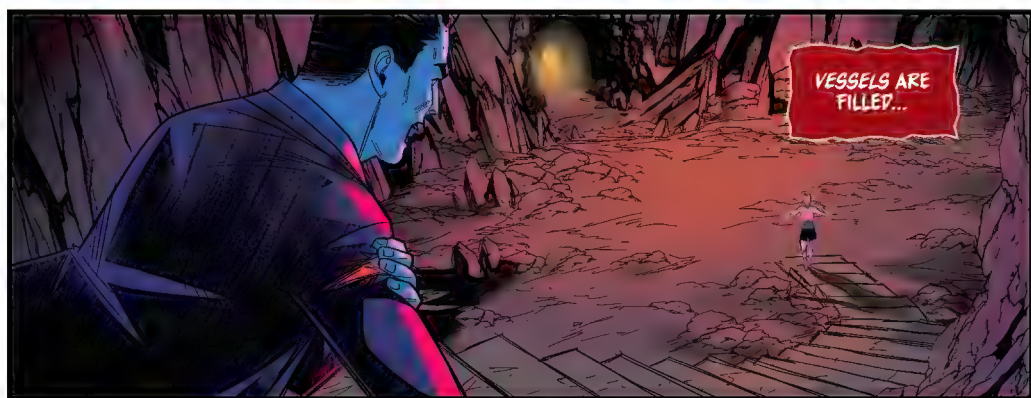


ARE YOU SURE  
EVERYTHING IS AS  
IT SEEMS?

YOU'VE  
BEEN WRONG  
BEFORE.



BLOOD IS  
SPILLED...



VESSELS ARE  
FILLED...



OH,  
GOD.





THE WALLS  
WANT A HUG...SKIN  
BURNING BUT HURT  
THE PARTS YOU  
CAN'T SEE...THE KEY  
BUT NOT TO OPEN.  
LOCKS...ALL  
LOCKS.

...EVERY  
PRETENDER  
KILLED



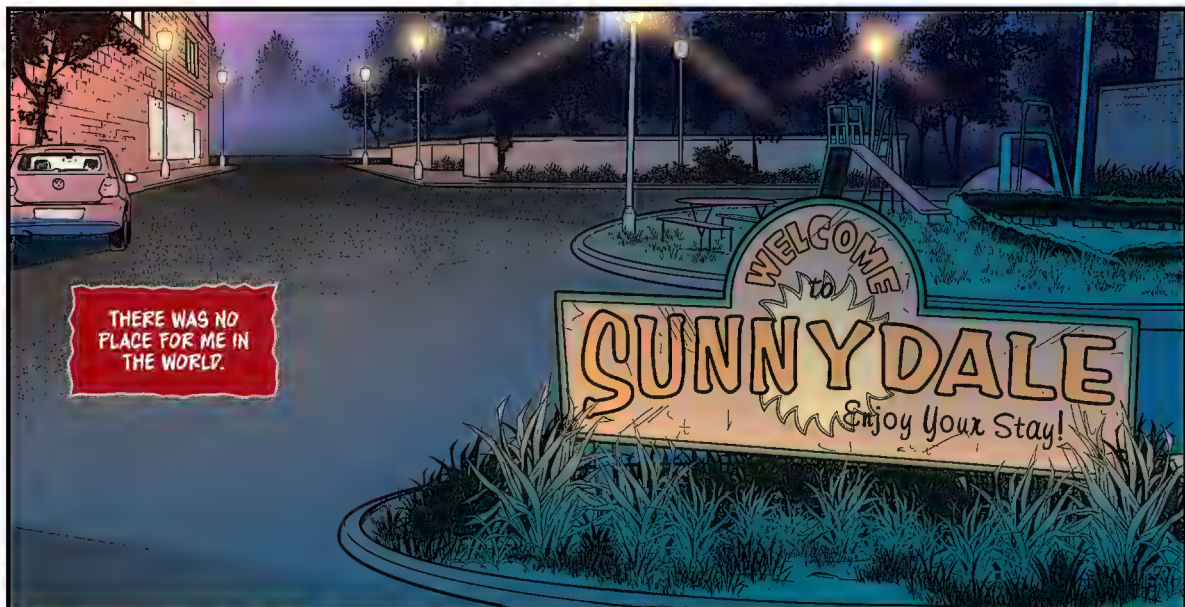




# CHAPTER **THREE**

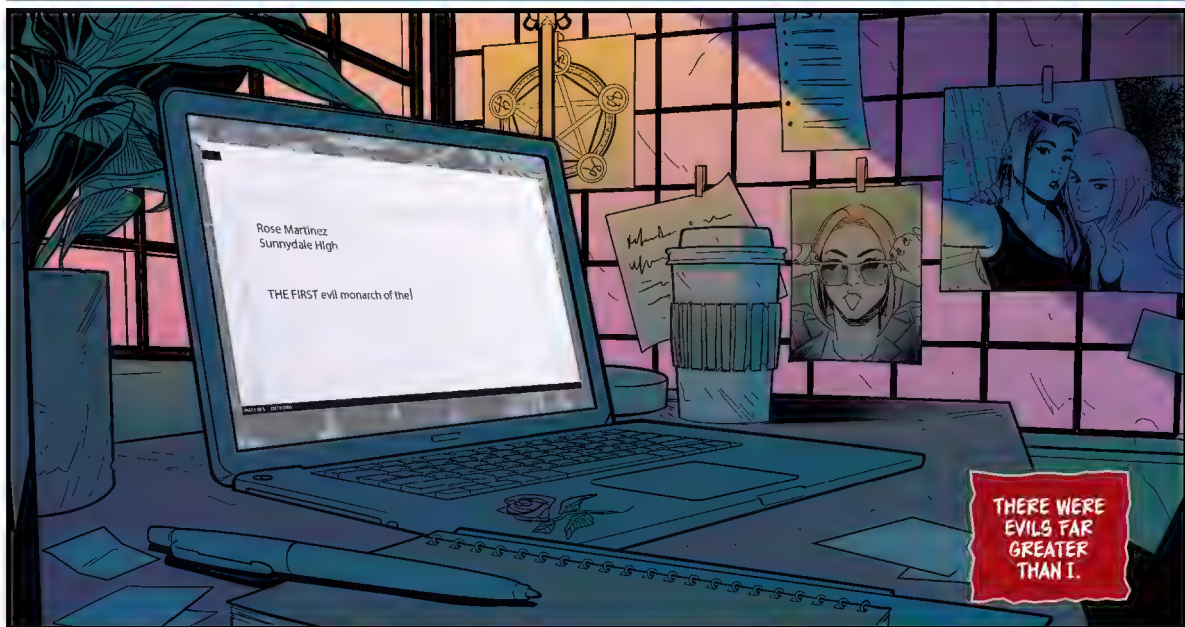






THERE WAS NO  
PLACE FOR ME IN  
THE WORLD.

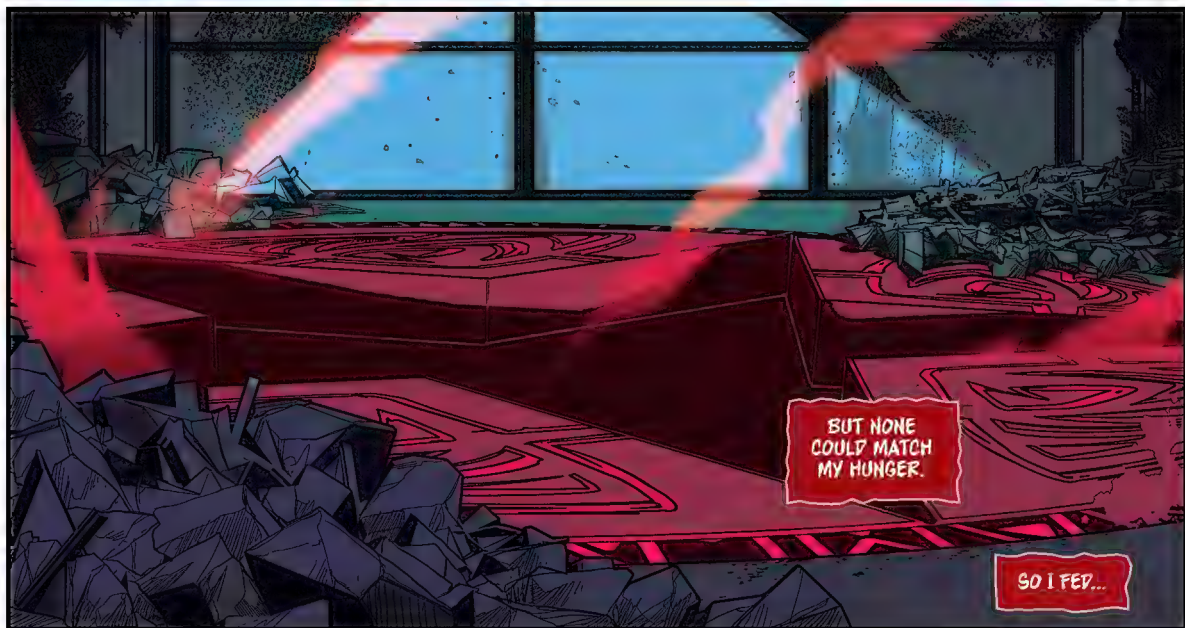
WELCOME  
to  
**SUNNYDALE**  
Enjoy Your Stay!



Rose Martinez  
Sunnydale High

THE FIRST evil monarch of the l

THERE WERE  
EVILS FAR  
GREATER  
THAN I.



BUT NONE  
COULD MATCH  
MY HUNGER.

SO I FED...



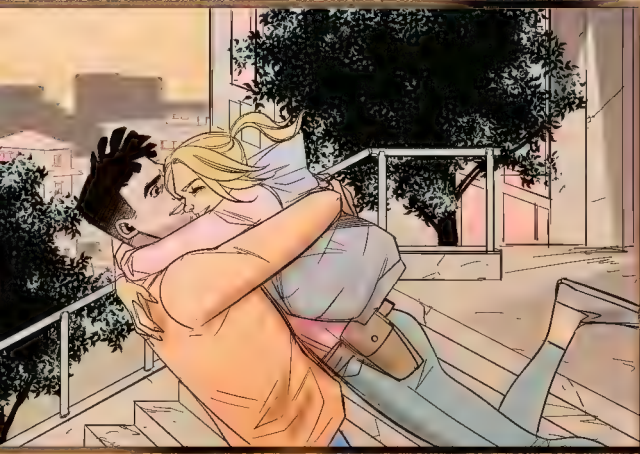
...AND I FED, UNTIL  
I WAS AS GREAT  
OR GREATER.

YOUR WORST  
PAYS. YOUR  
BEST HOURS.

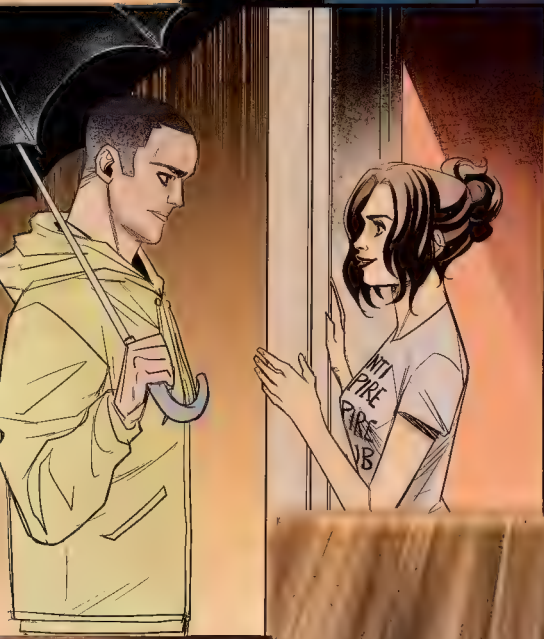
A  
SUMPTUOUS  
FEAST.







I WILL FINALLY  
HAVE A PLACE TO  
CALL MY OWN.

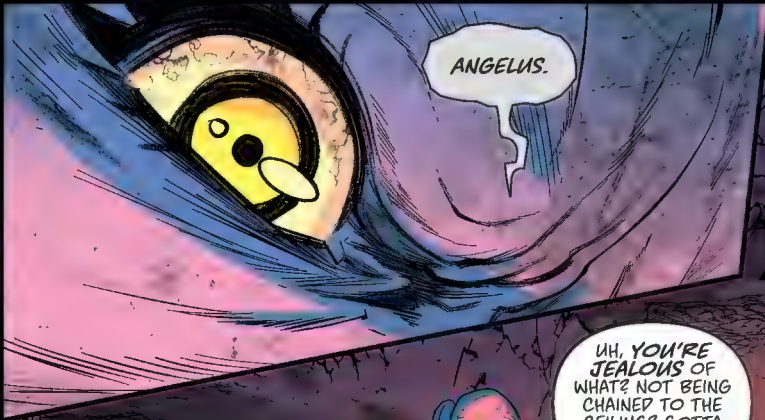


I WILL  
DEVOUR IT...



...AND  
ALL THOSE  
WITHIN.





ANGELUS.



UH, YOU'RE JEALOUS OF WHAT? NOT BEING CHAINED TO THE CEILING? GOTTA SAY, I WOULD BE T--



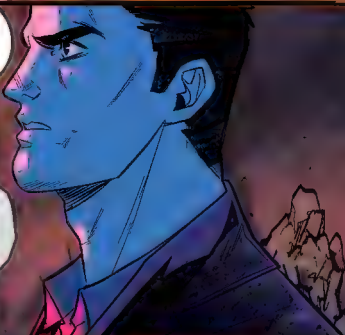
WHO DID THIS TO YOU?



EVERYTHING'S A LIE, ANGELUS. WHEN I FELT YOU HERE, I THOUGHT IT WAS ANOTHER NASTY TRICK. THE HELLMOTHER WAITS FOR YOU AND THE SLAYER--



I'M SORRY, 'ANGELUS'? SHOULD I GIVE YOU TWO A MOMENT, OR SHOULD WE DO WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO?



BUFFY, WE WERE WRONG. WE SHOULD FREE HER AND MOVE--

WE SHOULD STAKE HER. NOW.

THE SLAYER DOESN'T KNOW...





KNOW WHAT?  
THAT YOU TRIED TO  
KILL XANDER? YOU  
**FAILED**, DRUSILLA.  
HE'LL NEVER BE LIKE  
YOU--

I DOUBT  
YOUR FAITH, DARLING.  
OH, DID YOU KNOW THAT  
**ANGELUS** WAS THERE,  
TOO? SKULKING IN THE  
SHADOWS...HE ALWAYS DID  
LIKE TO WATCH. DIDN'T  
DO A THING TO  
STOP ME.



WHAT?

NO! NO,  
THAT'S NOT WHAT  
THAT WAS. BUFFY,  
PLEASE, THIS IS OUR  
ONLY CHANCE AT  
FINDING OUT--



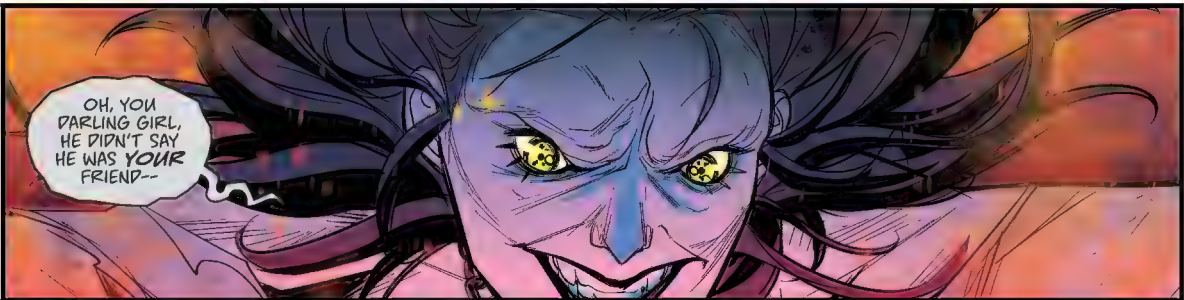
IS IT  
TRUE?

I...DIDN'T  
KNOW WHAT I  
WAS SEEING,  
BUT--

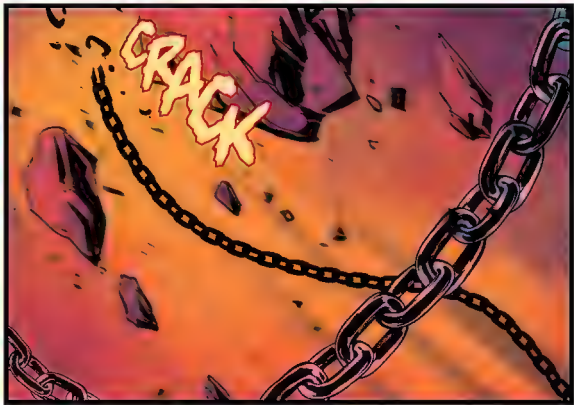
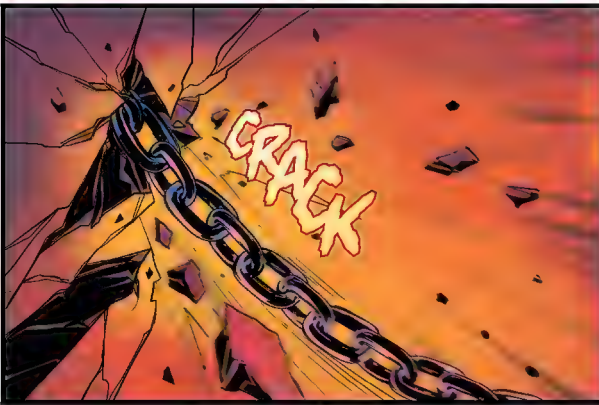
WHO ARE  
YOU?

I'M A  
FRIEND--

NO. YOU'RE  
NOT. YOU DON'T  
KNOW ME.



OH, YOU  
DARLING GIRL,  
HE DIDN'T SAY  
HE WAS **YOUR**  
FRIEND--

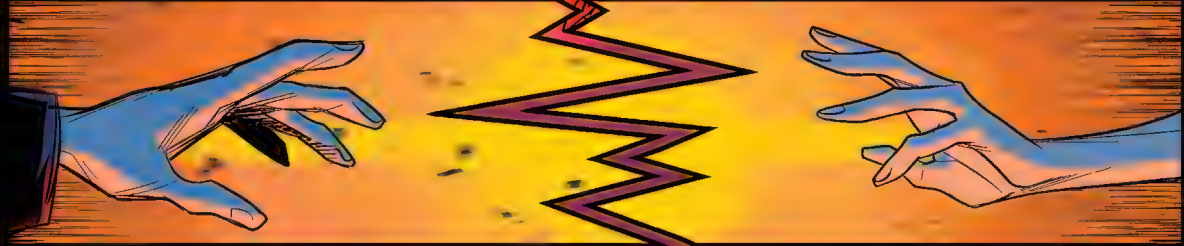




# THE BLOOD AND THE VESSEL!











THEY  
WILL BE  
BROKEN  
AGAIN

THEY  
WILL  
TEAR THE  
OTHER  
APART

BROKEN  
UNTIL  
THEIR  
END

GUTTED  
TWISTED  
TORN

WITH  
THEIR  
BLOOD

AND  
BONE





**I WILL WALK  
ABOVE**

AGH--

WHAT WAS  
THAT?!

THAT  
WOULD BE THE  
HELLMOTHER.

--OH, YOU'VE  
GOTTA BE  
KIDDING ME.

YOU'RE  
OUT OF YOUR  
DEPTH HERE,  
GIRL.

YEAH, COMING  
FROM THE LADY  
WHO MOONLIGHTS  
AS A MARIONETTE  
DOLL.

THE  
HELLMOUTH'S  
A FINE PLACE  
TO DIE,  
RIGHT?

I  
SHOULD  
END THIS  
RIGHT  
NOW--

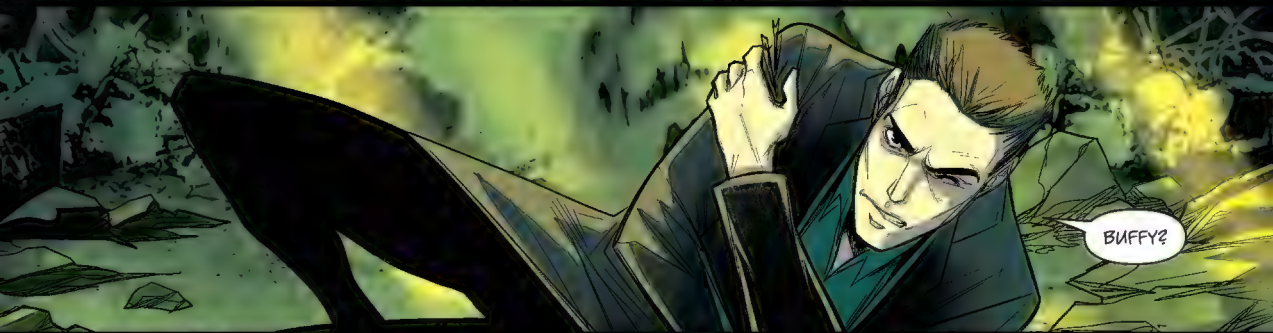
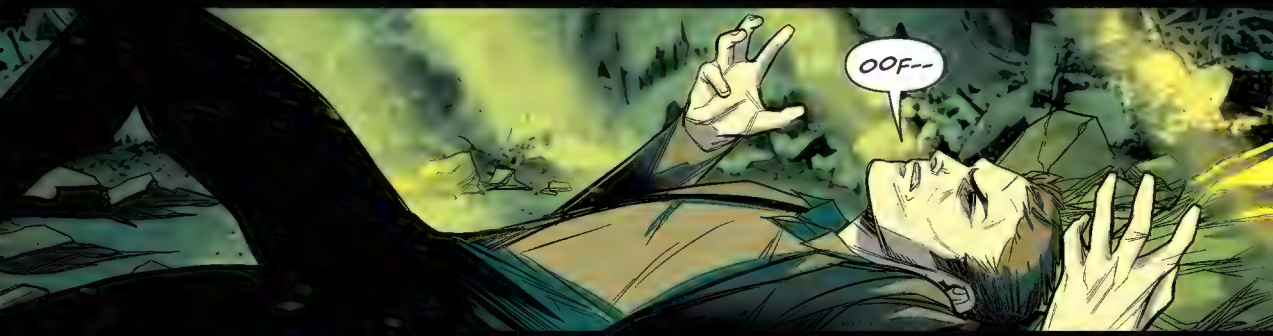
YOU COULD...AND  
SEAL YOUR FATE. HERE  
YOU WOULD REMAIN.  
ABANDONED AND  
ALONE. NO ANGELUS.  
NO FRIENDS.

ONLY A  
HELLMOTHER AND  
THE KNOWLEDGE  
OF HER ARMY  
WREAKING HAVOC  
IN SUNNYPALE--

WHAT  
ARMY?

THAT  
ONE.

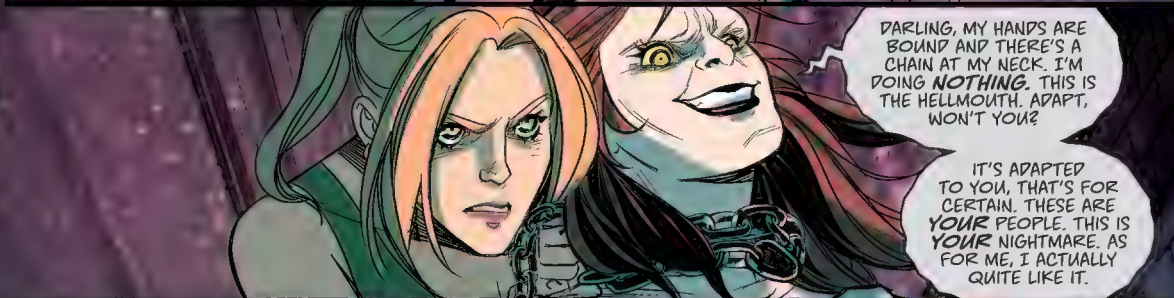






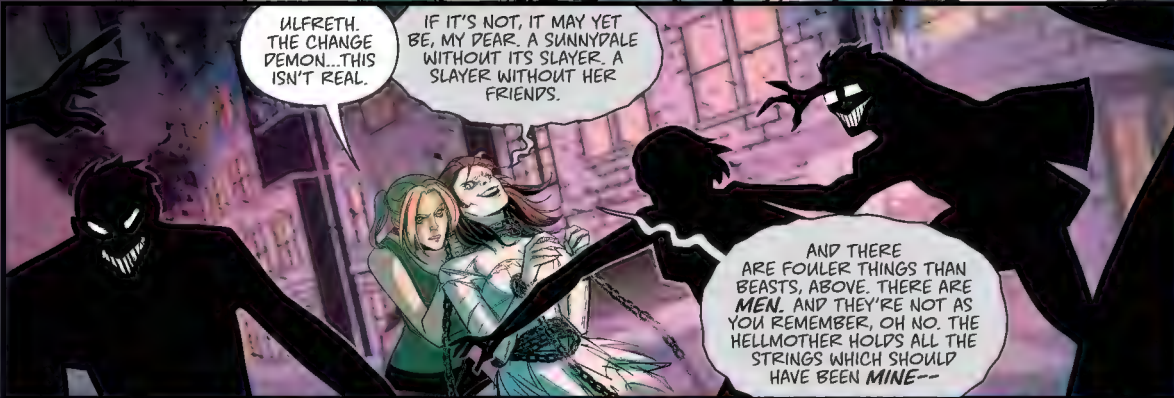


WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?



DARLING, MY HANDS ARE  
BOUND AND THERE'S A  
CHAIN AT MY NECK. I'M  
DOING **NOTHING**. THIS IS  
THE HELLMOUTH. ADAPT,  
WON'T YOU?

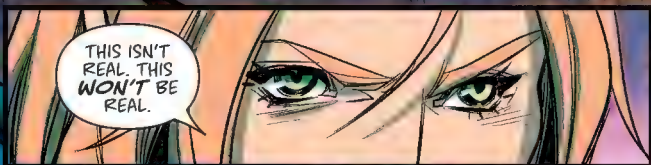
IT'S ADAPTED  
TO YOU, THAT'S FOR  
CERTAIN. THESE ARE  
**YOUR** PEOPLE. THIS IS  
**YOUR** NIGHTMARE. AS  
FOR ME, I ACTUALLY  
QUITE LIKE IT.



ULFRETH.  
THE CHANGE  
DEMON...THIS  
ISN'T REAL.

IF IT'S NOT, IT MAY YET  
BE, MY DEAR. A SUNNYDALE  
WITHOUT ITS SLAYER. A  
SLAYER WITHOUT HER  
FRIENDS.

AND THERE  
ARE FOULER THINGS THAN  
BEASTS. ABOVE, THERE ARE  
**MEN**. AND THEY'RE NOT AS  
YOU REMEMBER, OH NO. THE  
HELLMOTHER HOLDS ALL THE  
STRINGS WHICH SHOULD  
HAVE BEEN **MINE**--



THIS ISN'T  
REAL. THIS  
WON'T BE  
REAL.



SUNNYDALE  
BURNS,  
**SACRIFICE.**

BUT WE CAN  
STOP ALL THIS.  
THE MOTHER  
AWAITS YOU.

COME.  
END THIS  
SUFFERING.





...WEREN'T YOU JUST GOING TO KILL ME?

STILL MIGHT. PROBABLY WILL.

EVERY TIME I'VE PUSHED SOMEBODY AWAY AND TRIED TO GO IT ALONE, IT'S BLOWN UP IN MY FACE, AND--

SUCH A SWEET REVELATION.



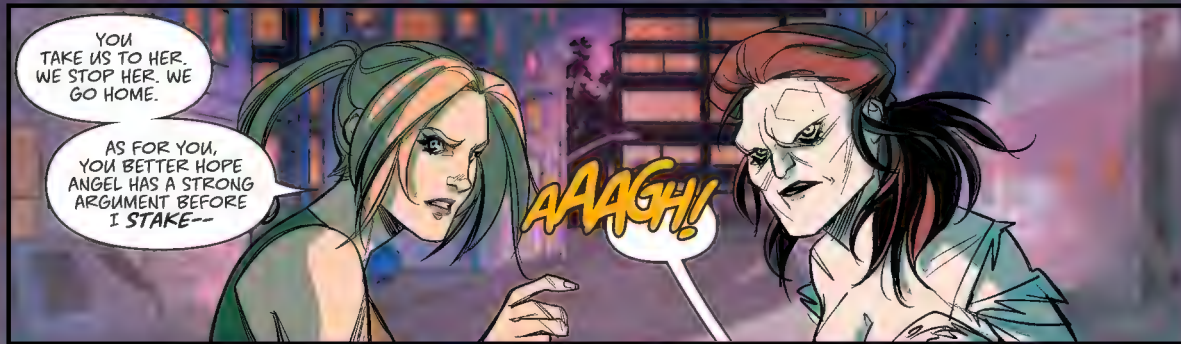
NO. NO, *YOU* I DESPISE. I DON'T KNOW WHY ANGEL WANTS YOU FREE, AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WITH XANDER.

BUT RIGHT NOW, ANGEL'S THE ONLY FRIEND I HAVE DOWN HERE. SO I'M TRUSTING HIM.



YOU'RE ALIVE... WELL... *STILL UNDEAD*, UNTIL WE GET TO ANGEL. THEN YOU SPILL THE BEANS ON THE HELLMOTHER. UP UNTIL A MOMENT AGO, I THOUGHT THAT WAS *YOU*.

YES, WELL, SO DID I. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IN THIS PLEASANT FICTION?



YOU TAKE US TO HER. WE STOP HER. WE GO HOME.

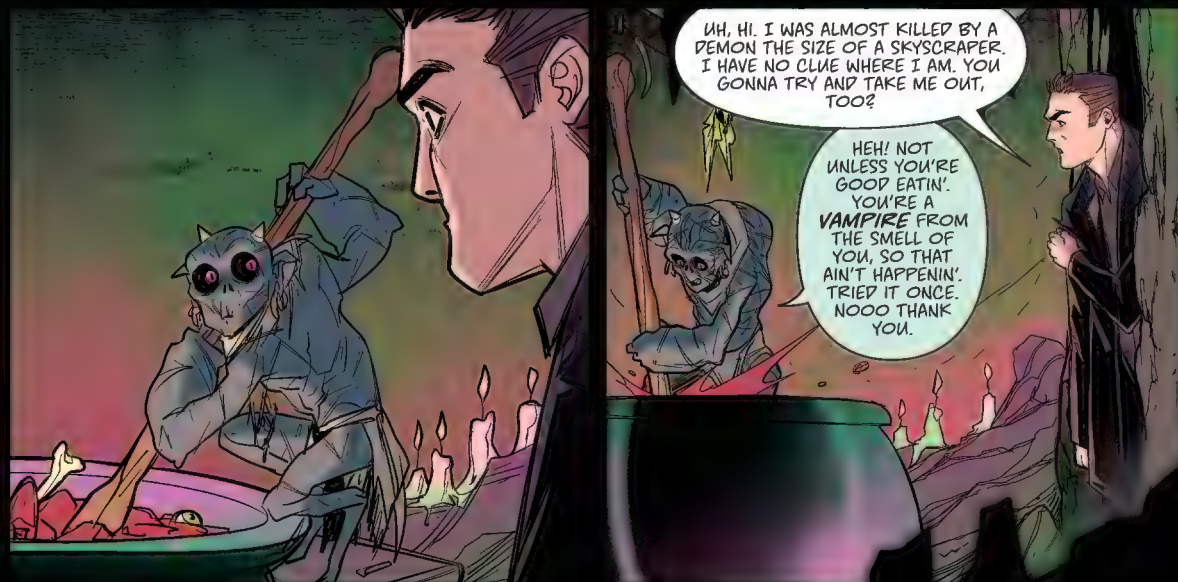
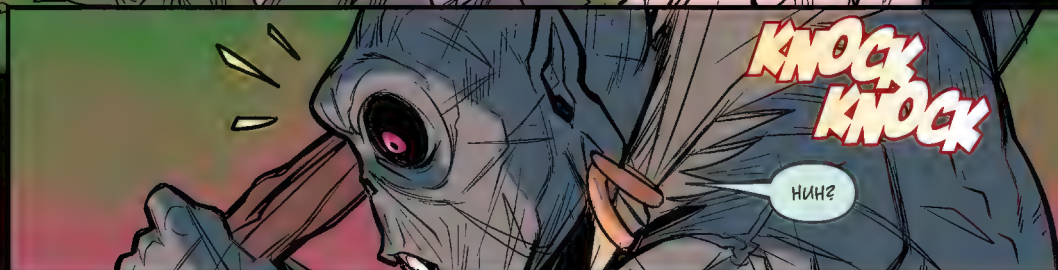
AS FOR YOU, YOU BETTER HOPE ANGEL HAS A STRONG ARGUMENT BEFORE I *STAKE--*

*AAAGH!*



--UH OH.









WELL, COME ON IN!

YOU JUST MET THE **HELLMOTHER**, FROM THE SOUND OF IT. OR MET WHAT SHE WANTED YOU TO MEET. SHE LIKES HER MANIFESTATIONS.

THING SHE WANTS MOST IN THE WORLD IS SOMEONE'S **BLOOD** AND, WELL, THAT TALL BAG O' BONES YOU'RE WALKIN' AROUND IN, IN FACT.



BUT AS FOR YOU... YOU JUST WANNA BE A HUMAN AGAIN, MISTER VAMPIRE.

WHAT?

WRITTEN ALL OVER YOUR FACE, INNIT?

I'M AN **ORACLE**. CAN SEE FOLKS' DESIRES. THE STRONGEST ONES, AT LEAST. DEMON, VAMPIRE, OR OTHERWISE. JUST ABOUT THE ONLY USEFUL GIFT I GOT!

CAN'T SEE NAMES, THOUGH, SO YOU GOTTA HELP ME OUT THERE. MINE'S **AUGIE**. AUGINTEEGHAREKK, ORIGINALLY. WHAT'S YOURS?



ANGEL. ANGELUS, ORIGINALLY. BIT EASIER TO PRONOUNCE.

HEH! IT SURE IS! SO WHY ARE YOU HERE?

THE **HELLMOUTH** OPENED. MY FRIEND AND I ARE HERE TO CLOSE IT.



OH, THAT'S WHERE EVERYBODY WENT. HAVEN'T BEEN TOPSIDE, MYSELF. ANYWAY, I'M NOT COMPLAINING, THEY'RE BULLIES DOWN HERE AS MUCH AS THEY ARE UP THERE. GLAD TO BE RID O' 'EM FOR A WHILE. GIVES THINGS TIME TO HEAL AND ALL.

I'M...I'M SORRY THAT THEY HURT YOU.



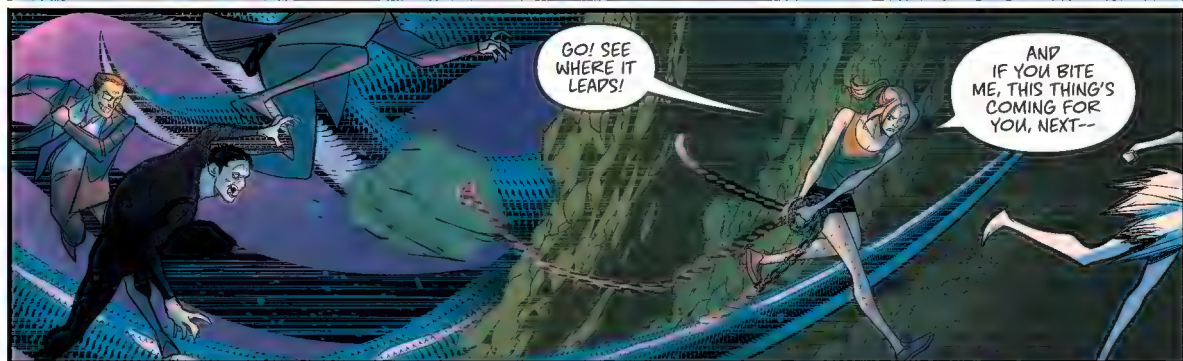
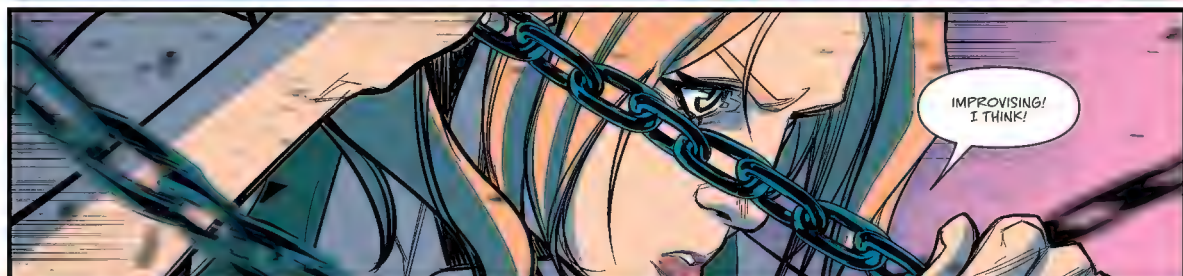
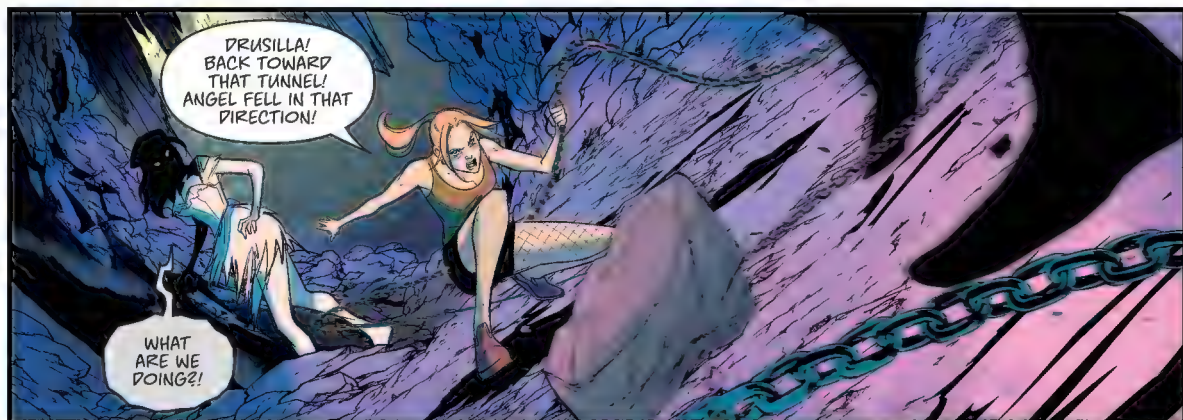
IT'S NOT SO BAD.

BUT THAT **HUMAN** THING. THERE'S A WAY TO DO IT, YOU KNOW. GET YOUR HUMANITY BACK. I'VE SEEN IT DONE. I CAN TELL YOU HOW.

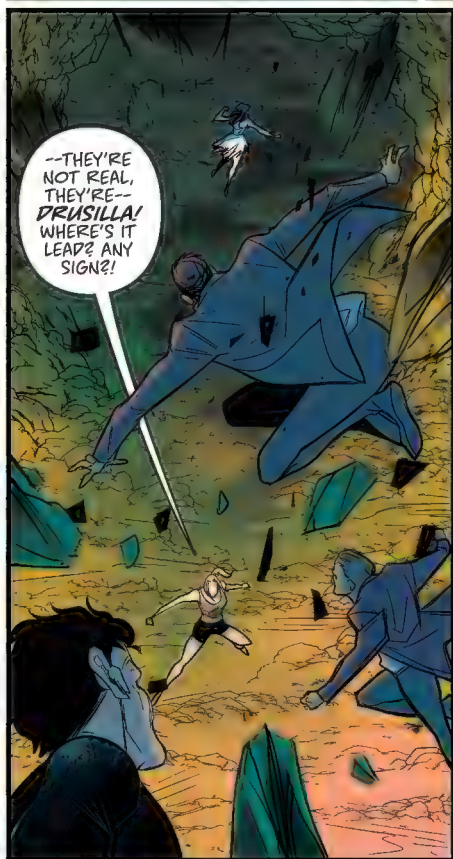


BUT YOU'RE NOT GONNA LIKE IT.

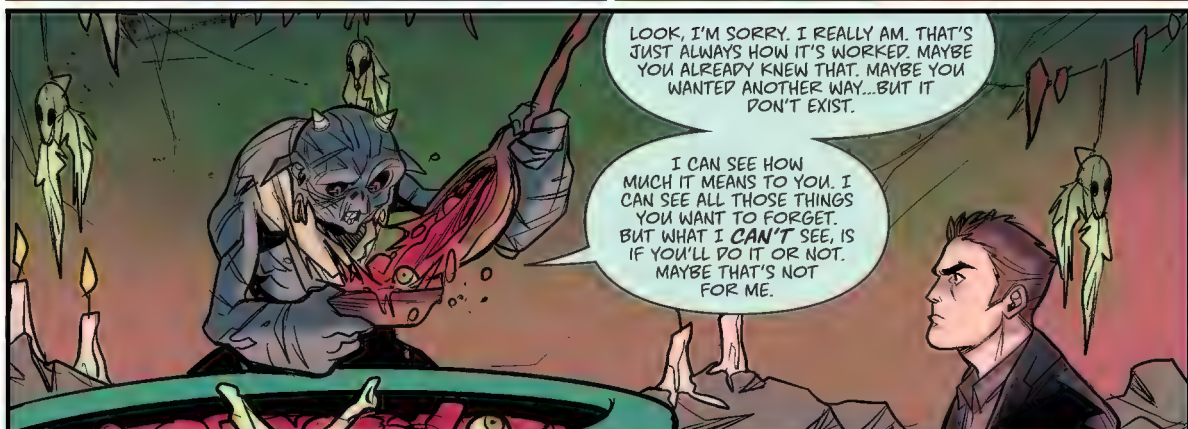








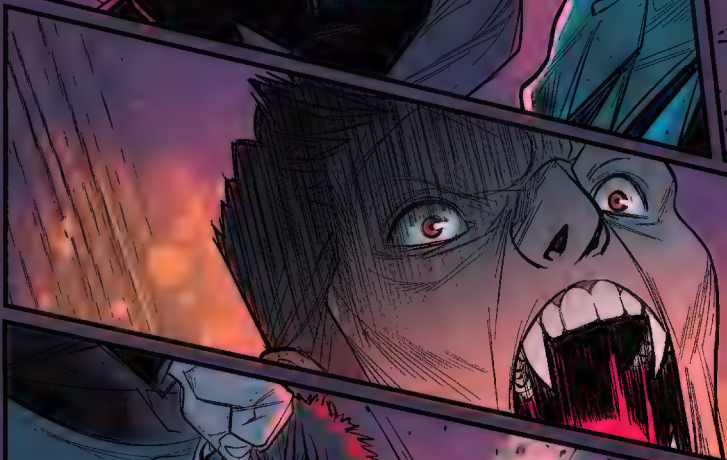




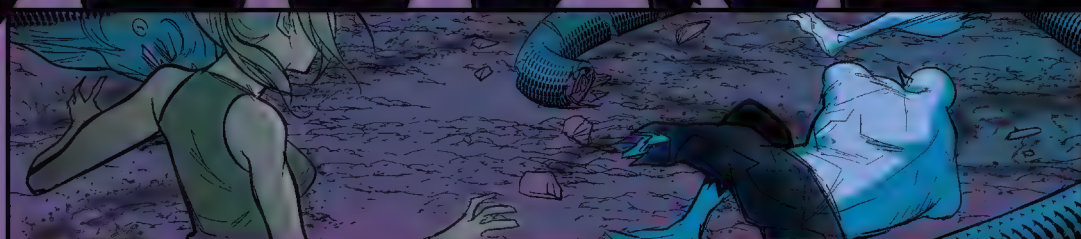




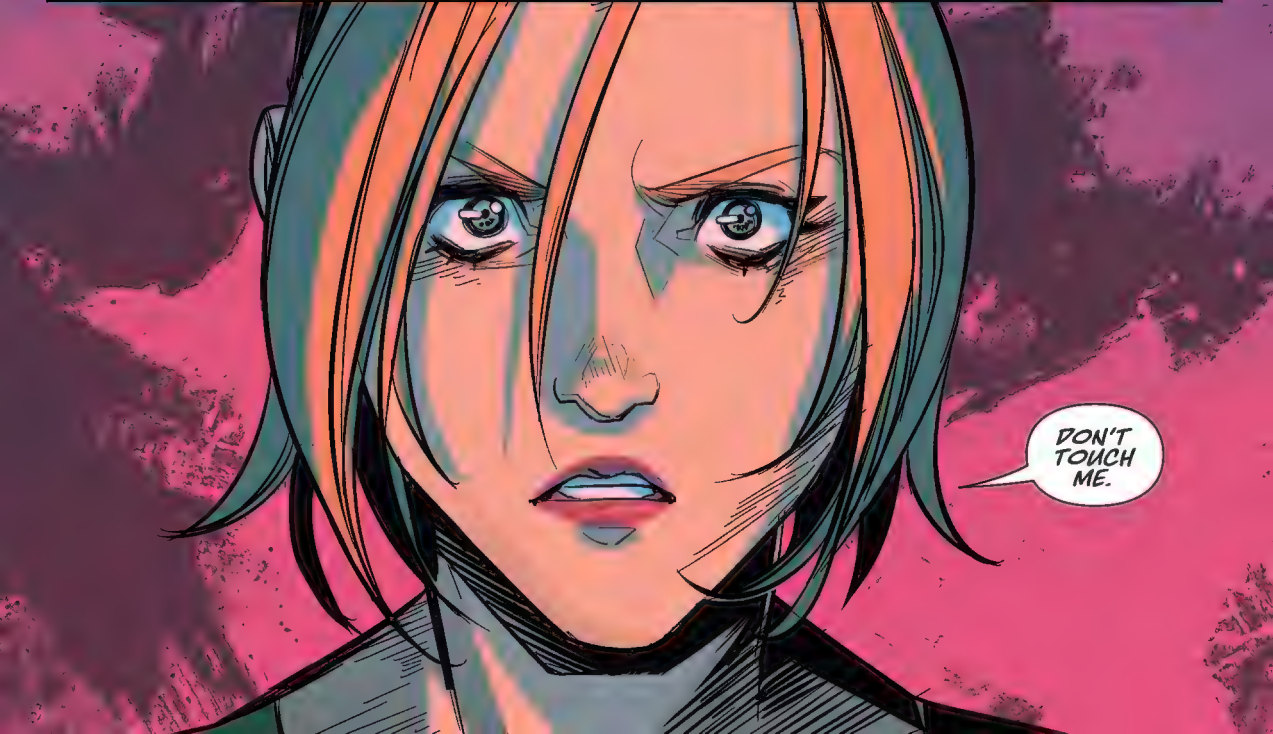
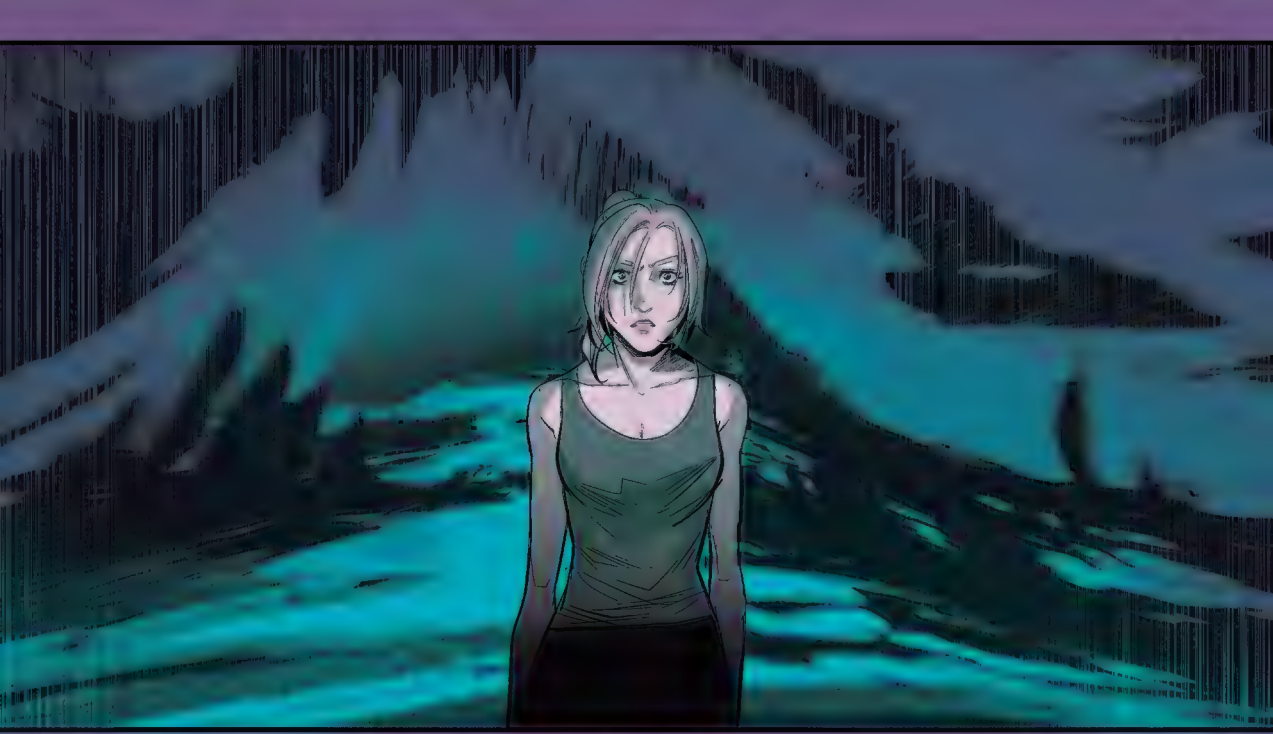


















# CHAPTER **FOUR**

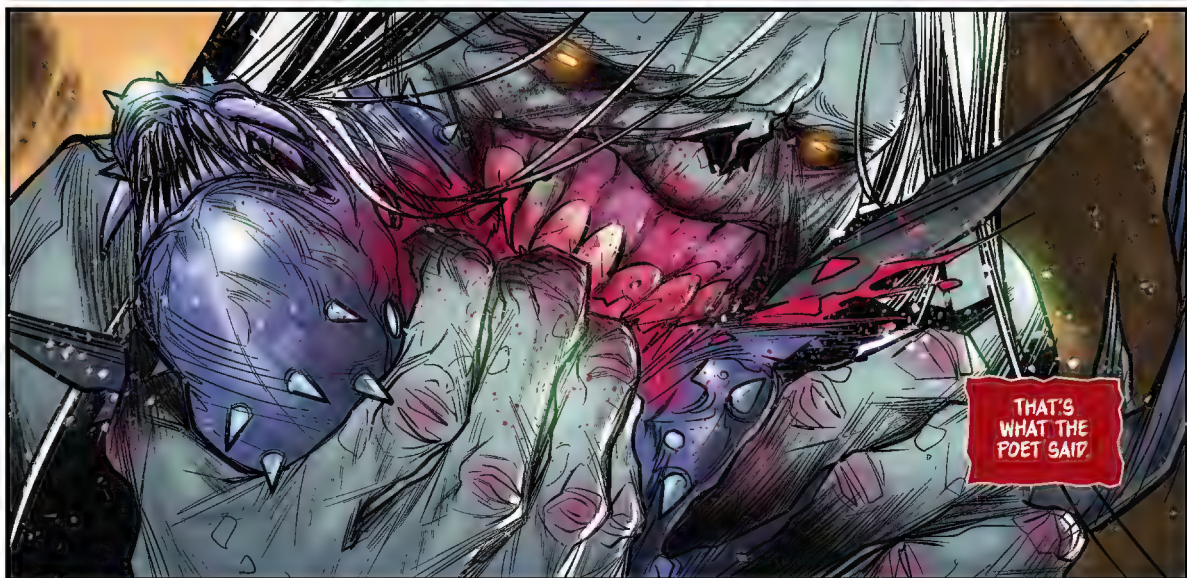




BETTER TO  
REIGN IN HELL  
THAN SERVE  
ABOVE



THAT'S  
WHAT THE  
POET SAID



BUT TO  
SERVE IN  
HELL...







...WOULD BE THE  
GOAL OF NONE.

THEY WERE THE  
FIRST EVIL. I  
WANTED TO BE THE  
NEXT...RULING  
OVER ALL.



PLOTS AND  
WHISPERS WERE  
MY TRADE...

...BUT IT WAS NOT TO BE.  
NOT THEN. NOT UNTIL  
SOMETHING PULLED THE  
FIRST AWAY...THE  
PROMISES OF INFERNAL  
SPLENDOR.



NOW YOU ARE HERE IN THIS HOLE IN THE  
GROUND, WHERE I REIGN OVER ALL FORGOTTEN  
THINGS. THE CAST-ASIDES AND LEFT-BEHINDS.

AND NOW YOU  
KNOW TRUE  
LONELINESS...

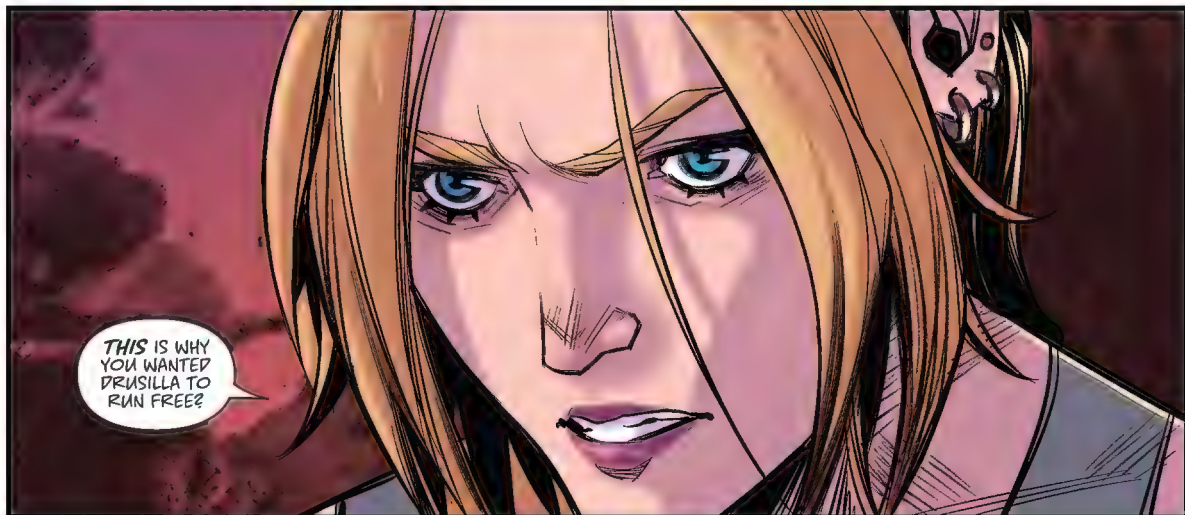


...JUST LIKE ME.

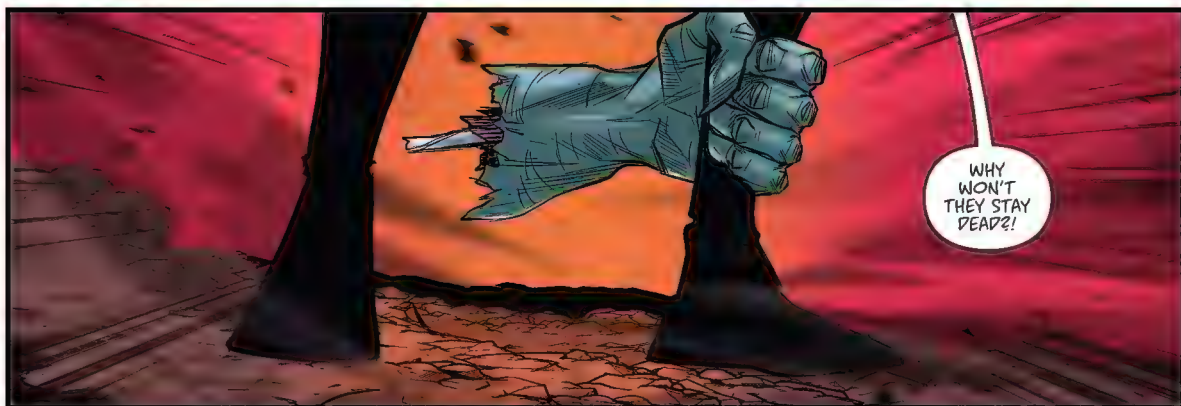
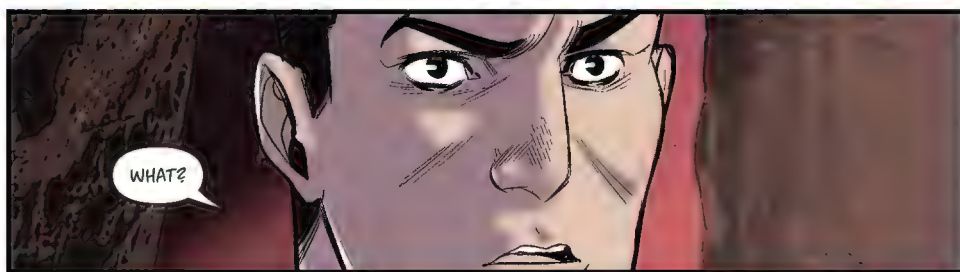
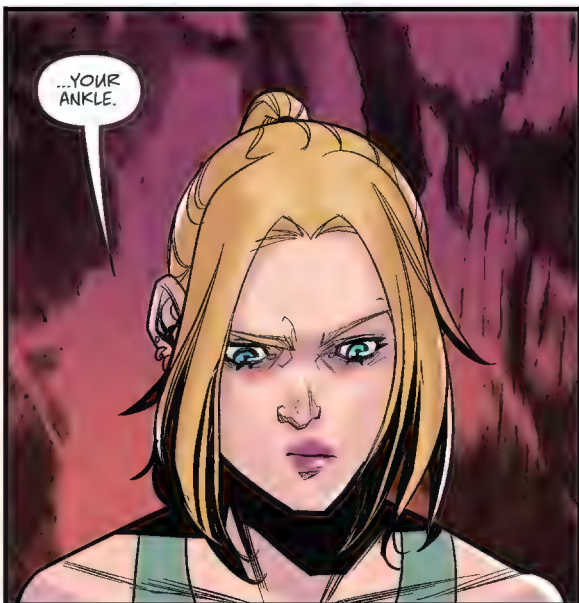
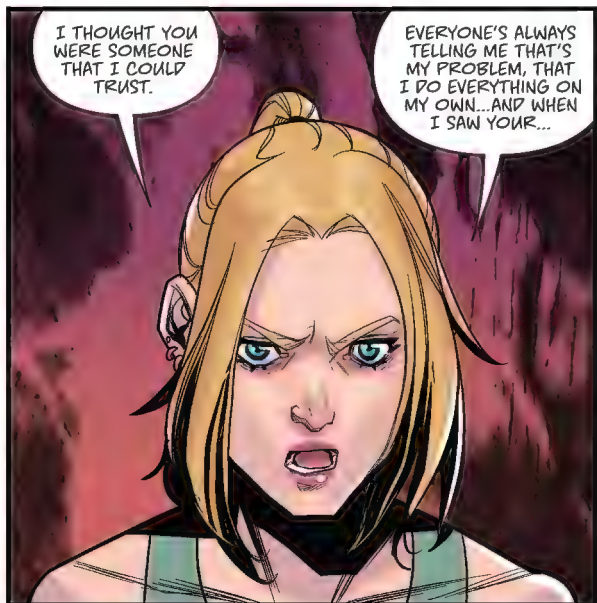
YOU'RE A...  
VAMPIRE.















THERE  
IT IS.

DAMN.

AND I WAS  
TRYING TO STAY  
OUT OF THIS  
MESS--



PAIN.

HATE TO BREAK UP  
A FAMILY REUNION  
HERE, BUT YOU'RE  
IN MY WAY.

SIMMERING JUST  
BENEATH THE  
SURFACE.

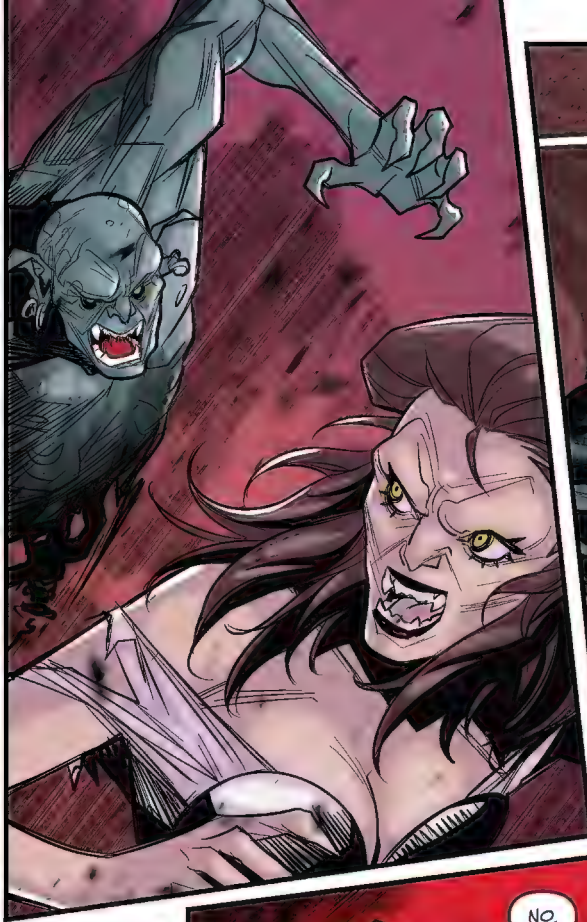
I'M  
NOT LIKE  
THEM!

ENOUGH REASON FOR ME  
TO RAISE THESE CHILDREN  
AND BRING IT FORTH  
FROM YOU, GIRL.

COULD'VE  
FOOLED  
ME.

YOUR BLOOD  
WILL BE  
INTOXICATING.





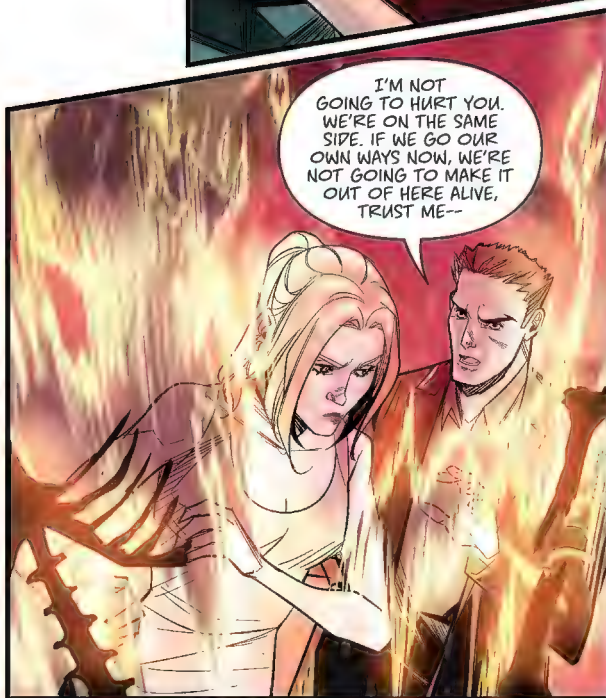
BUFFY--



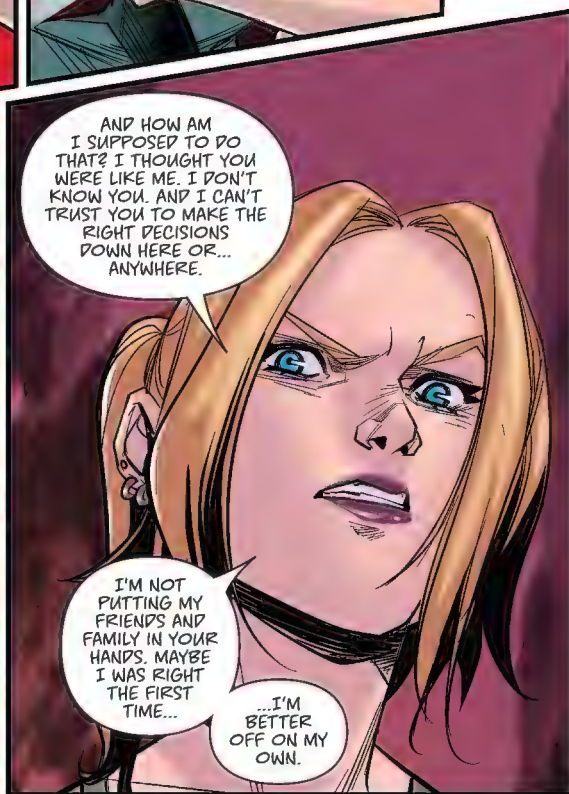
NO.



WE'RE  
DONE.



I'M NOT  
GOING TO HURT YOU.  
WE'RE ON THE SAME  
SIDE. IF WE GO OUR  
OWN WAYS NOW, WE'RE  
NOT GOING TO MAKE IT  
OUT OF HERE ALIVE,  
TRUST ME--

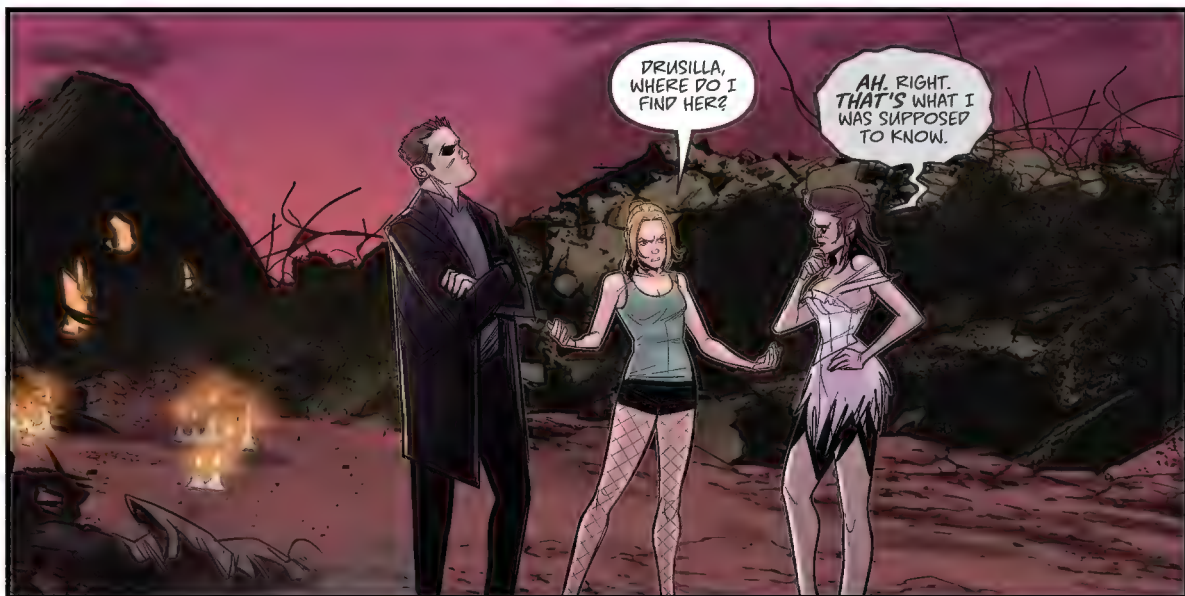


AND HOW AM  
I SUPPOSED TO DO  
THAT? I THOUGHT YOU  
WERE LIKE ME. I DON'T  
KNOW YOU. AND I CAN'T  
TRUST YOU TO MAKE THE  
RIGHT DECISIONS  
DOWN HERE OR...  
ANYWHERE.

I'M NOT  
PUTTING MY  
FRIENDS AND  
FAMILY IN YOUR  
HANDS. MAYBE  
I WAS RIGHT  
THE FIRST  
TIME...

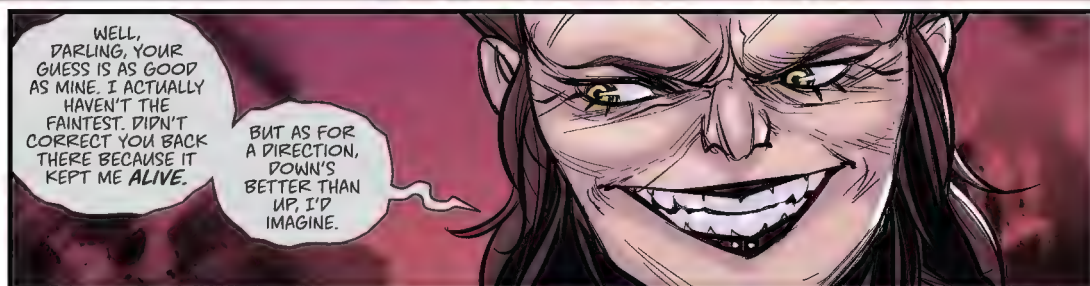
...I'M  
BETTER  
OFF ON MY  
OWN.





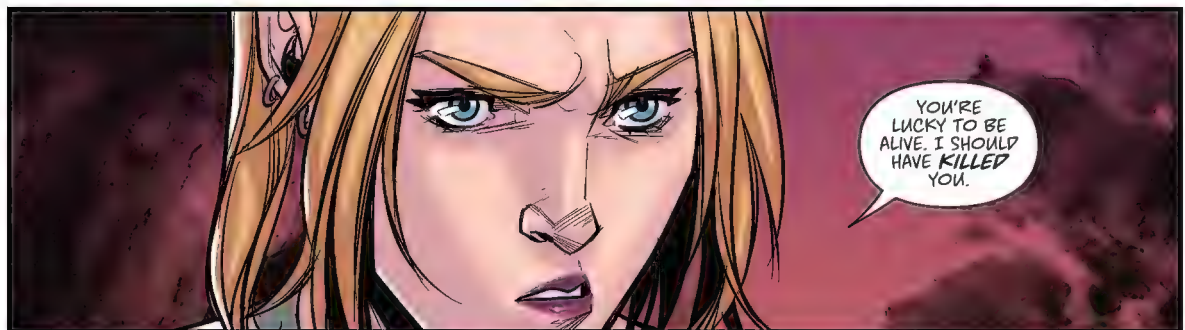
DRUSILLA,  
WHERE DO I  
FIND HER?

AH. RIGHT.  
THAT'S WHAT I  
WAS SUPPOSED  
TO KNOW.



WELL,  
DARLING, YOUR  
GUESS IS AS GOOD  
AS MINE. I ACTUALLY  
HAVEN'T THE  
FAINTEST. DIDN'T  
CORRECT YOU BACK  
THERE BECAUSE IT  
KEPT ME ALIVE.

BUT AS FOR  
A DIRECTION,  
DOWN'S  
BETTER THAN  
UP, I'D  
IMAGINE.



YOU'RE  
LUCKY TO BE  
ALIVE. I SHOULD  
HAVE **KILLED**  
YOU.



LUCKY INDEED, AND  
WHO DO YOU THINK IT  
WAS THAT MADE ME THIS  
WAY? ANGELUS IS A  
**WONDERFUL** SIRE AND  
TEACHER. I ALWAYS SAY I  
LEARNED FROM THE  
BEST--

STOP.



AT LEAST  
SHE'S WILLING  
TO TELL THE  
TRUTH.





DON'T FOLLOW ME.

BUFFY, WAIT--

JUST LET ME IN.

STOP IT!



I ALREADY DID WHAT YOU ASKED, I ALREADY DID IT! I DIDN'T WANT TO, BUT I DID IT. I TOLD HIM! TRUTH OR NOT. NOW HOLD UP YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN AND PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!

YOU COULD BE STRONG, AUGINTEEGHAREKK. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE. JUST THINK...



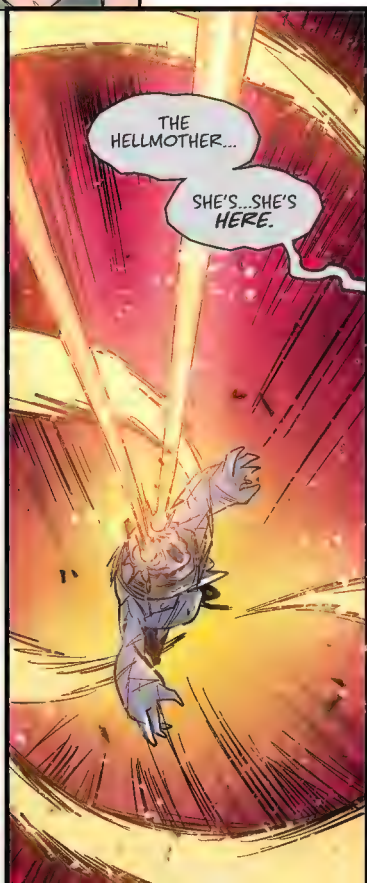
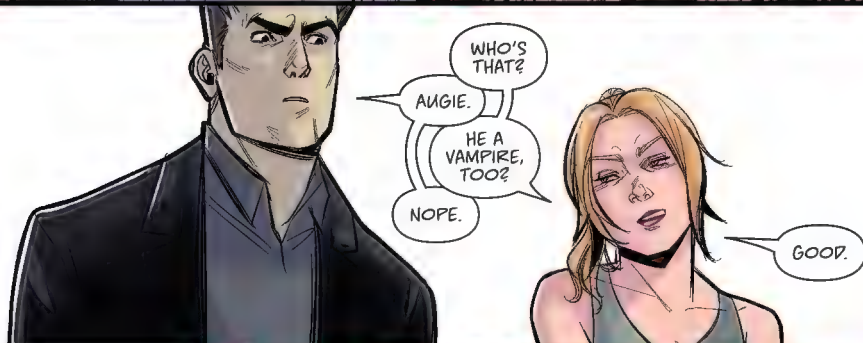
WHY ELSE WOULD I BE OFFERING YOU THIS GIFT? THIS IS YOUR REWARD FOR A JOB WELL DONE, LITTLE ONE.

I WANT NO PART IN YOUR GAMES!

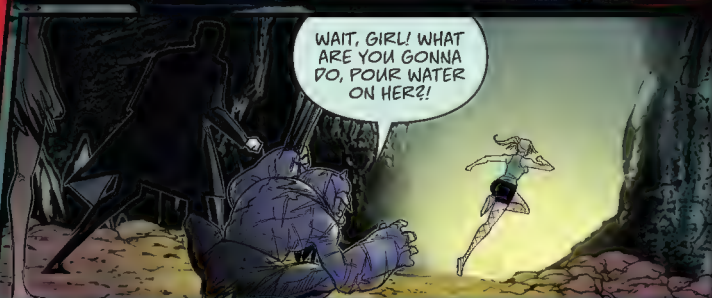
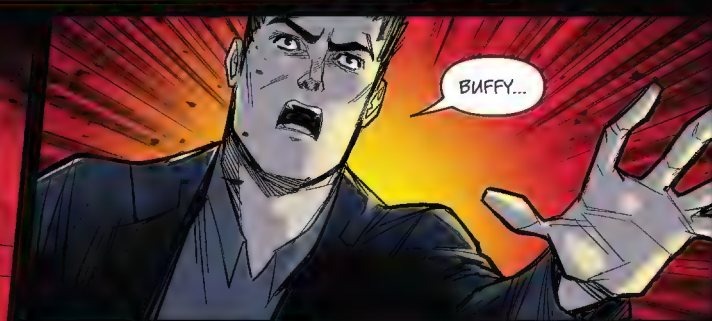


MAKE THEM HURT, AUGIE, I ONLY NEED JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE OF THEIR PAIN UNTIL I CAN MANIFEST. TELL THEM.













YOU ARE AN  
AFTERTHOUGHT,  
ANGELUS.

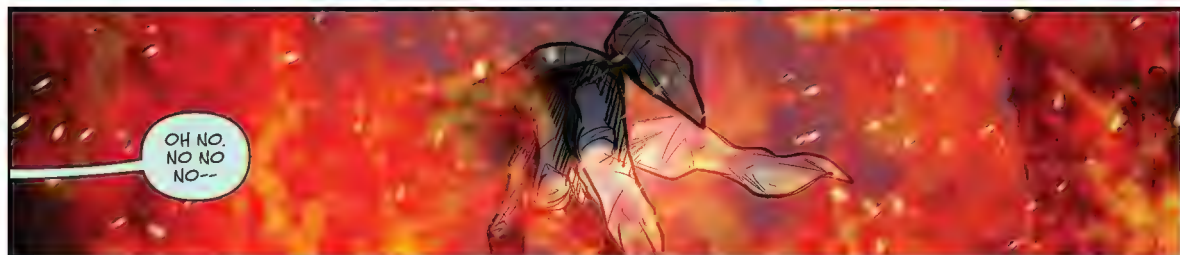
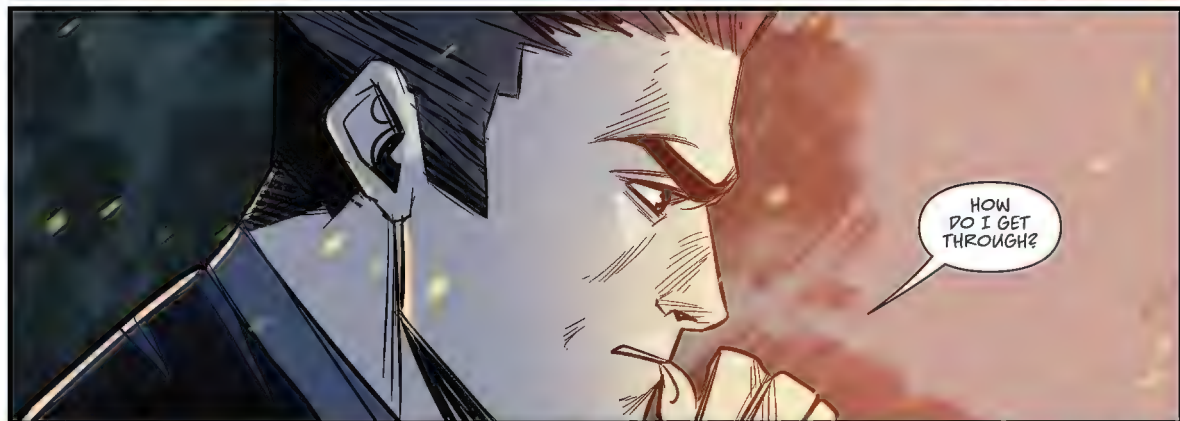
A BAD  
MEMORY IN THE  
MIDDLE OF THE  
NIGHT AND GONE  
BY MORNING.

FORGOTTEN.

WORST OF  
ALL...YOU  
ARE TRULY  
ALONE.

I SHARE THIS  
BURDEN.



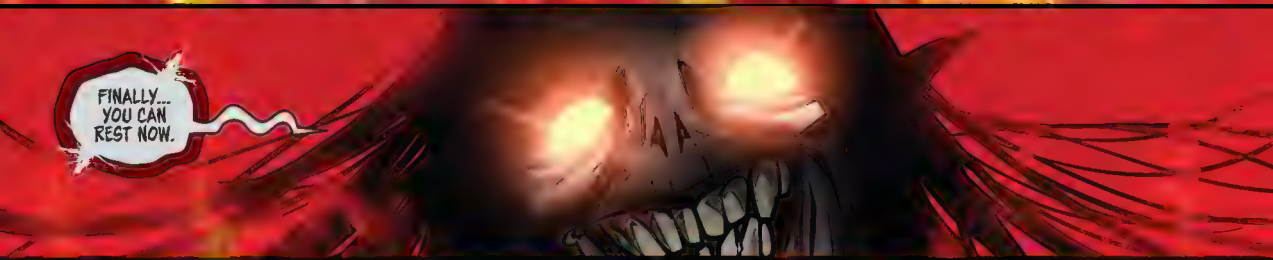




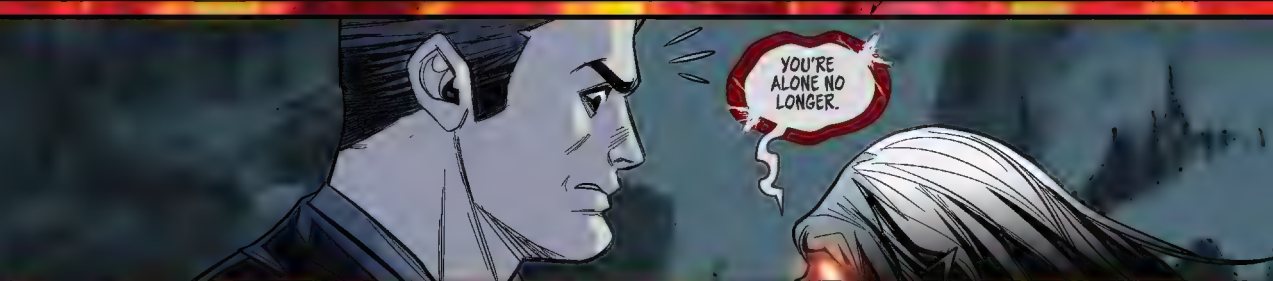


YOU WILL BE MY  
VESSEL. AND I WILL  
BE LESSER NO  
LONGER.

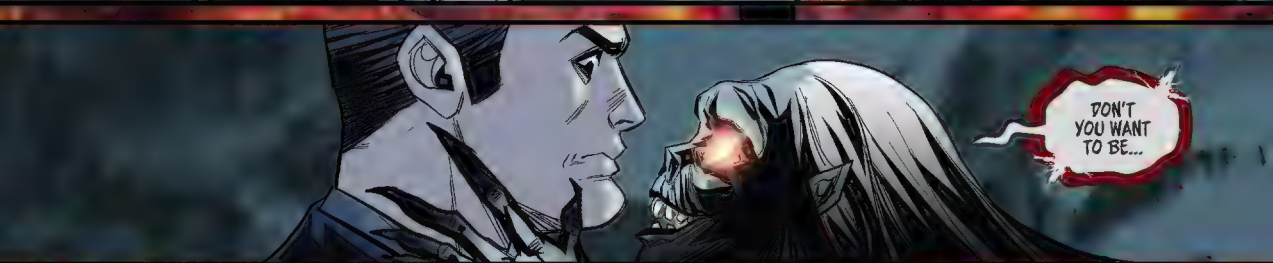
AGH!



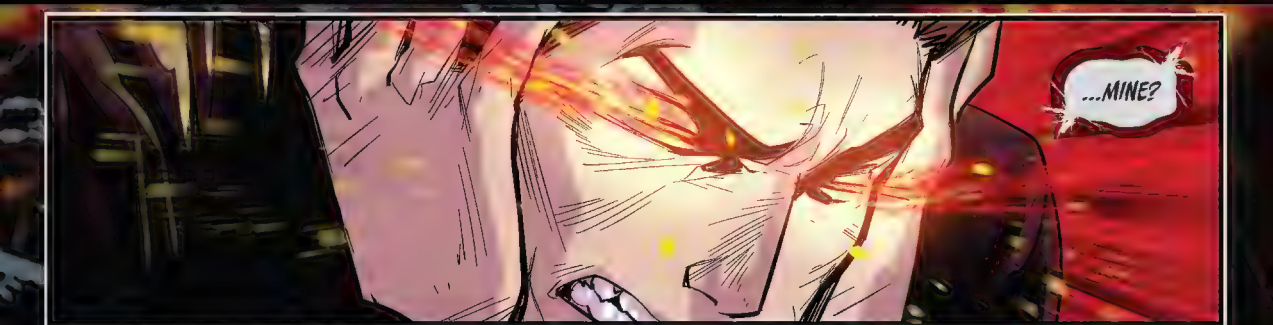
FINALLY...  
YOU CAN  
REST NOW.



YOU'RE  
ALONE NO  
LONGER.



DON'T  
YOU WANT  
TO BE...



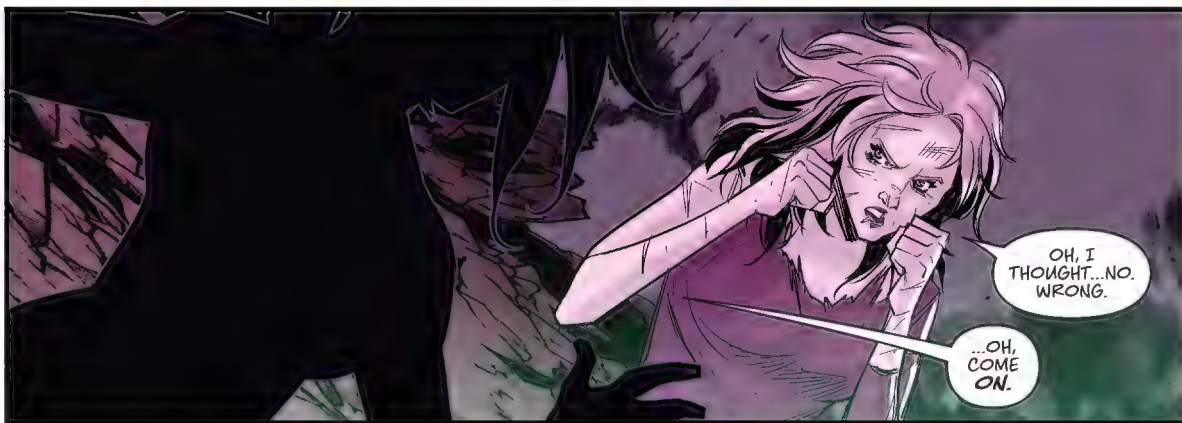
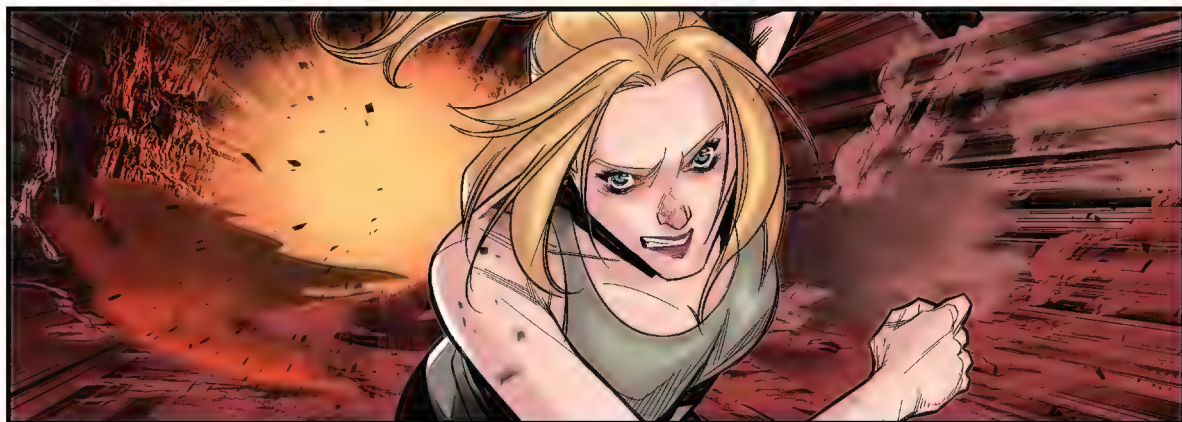
...MINE?



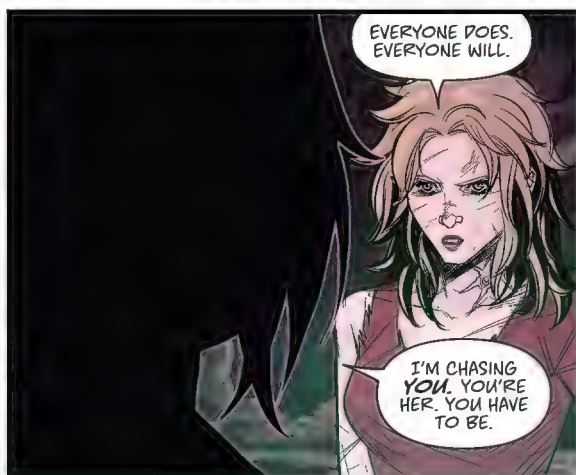
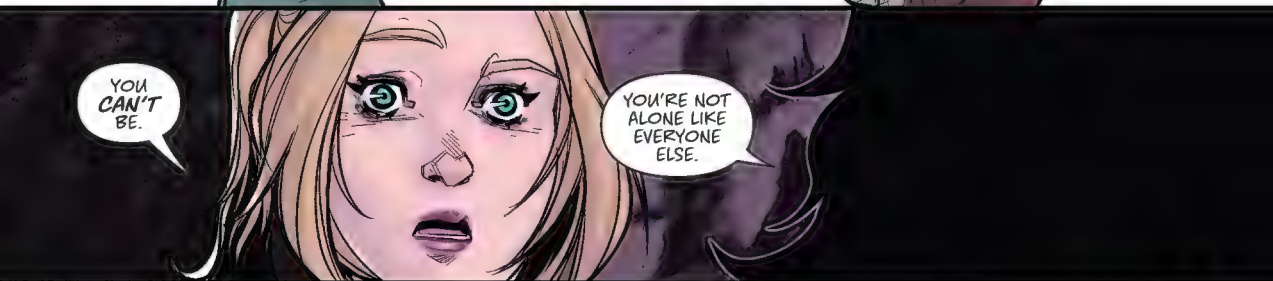
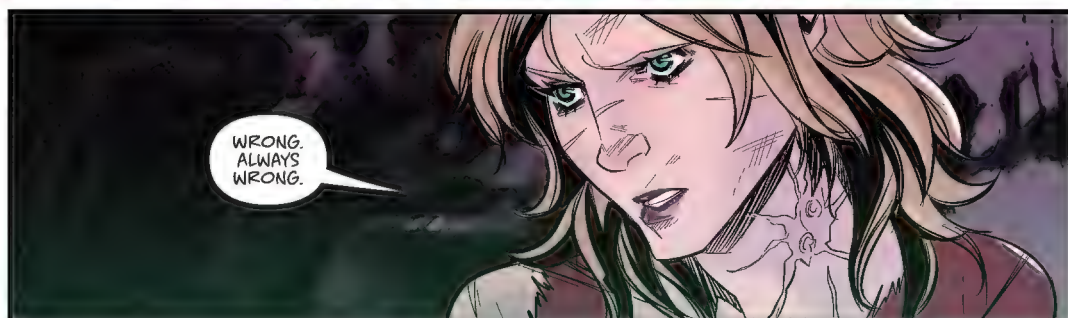
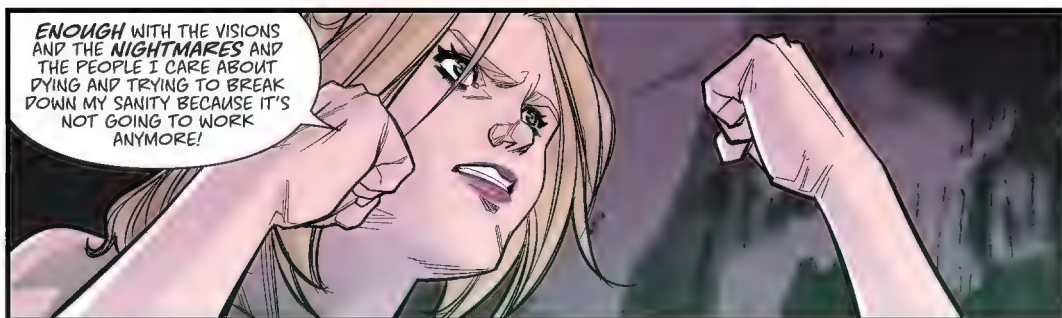
HA HA  
HA



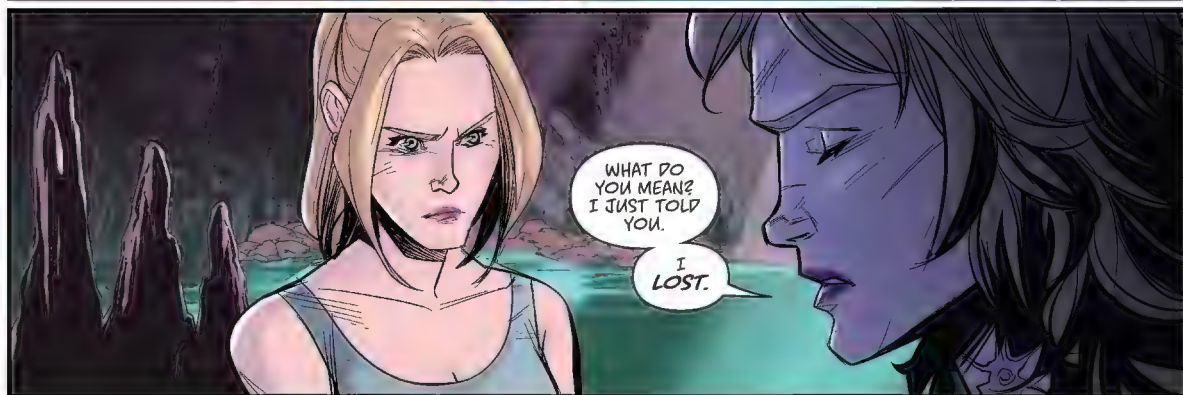
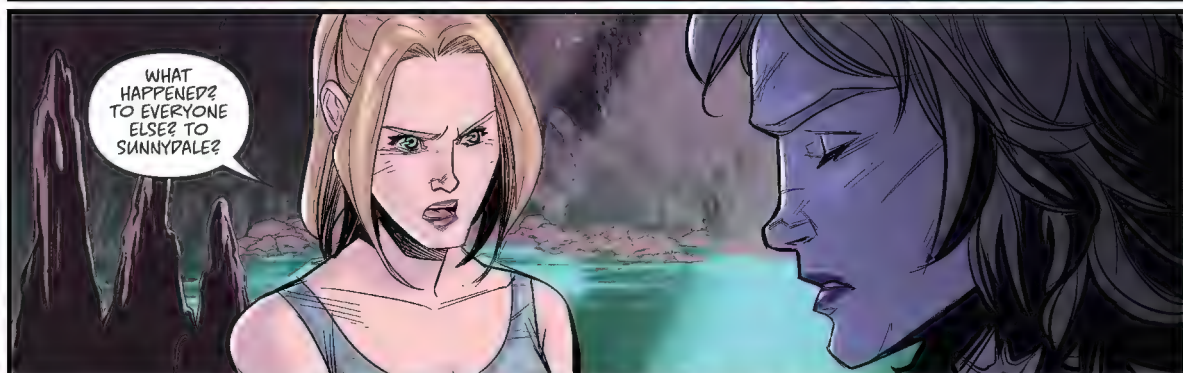
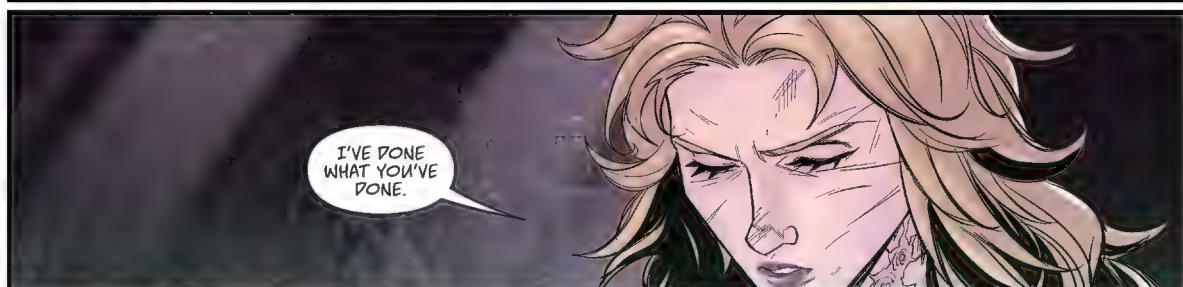
















LOST  
EVERYONE.



EVERYTHING.

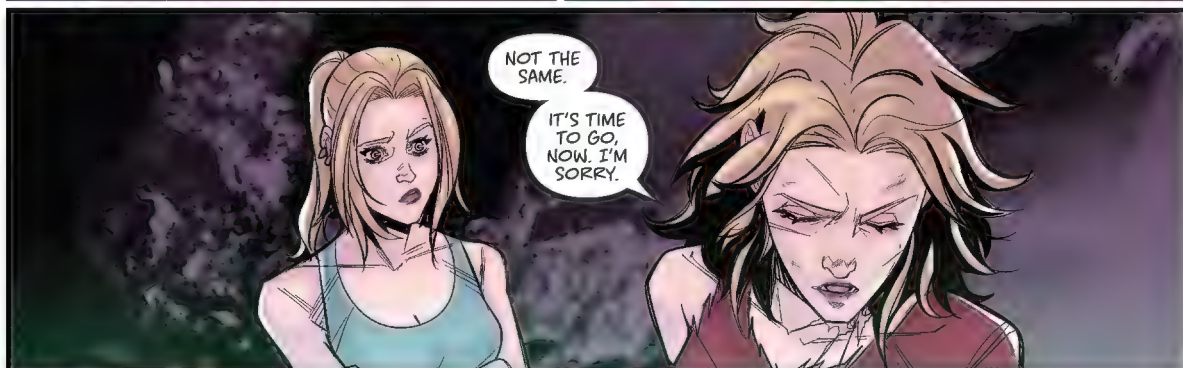


YOU CAME  
ALONE?

NO. I  
CAME WITH...  
BUT HE'S--

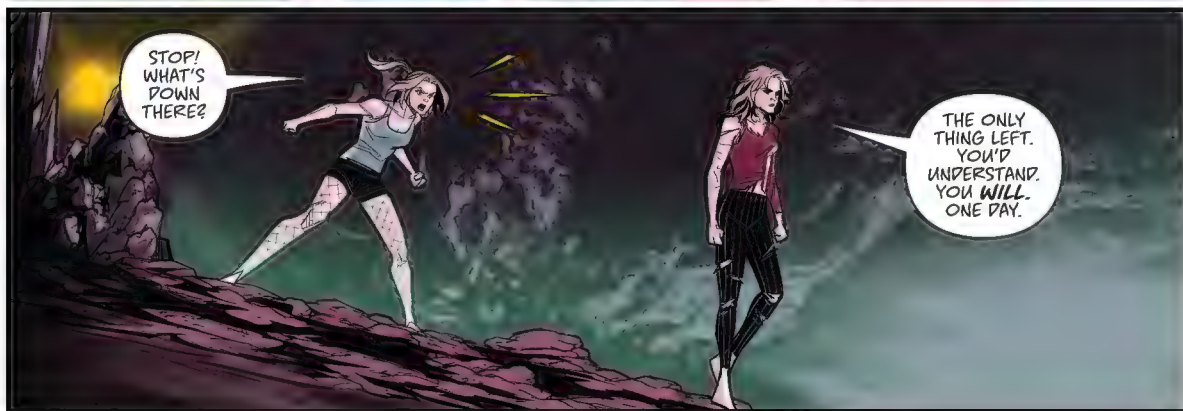
GOOD.  
NOT ALONE,  
THEN.

NO, YOU  
DON'T--



NOT THE  
SAME.

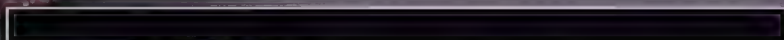
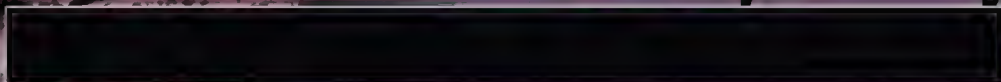
IT'S TIME  
TO GO,  
NOW. I'M  
SORRY.



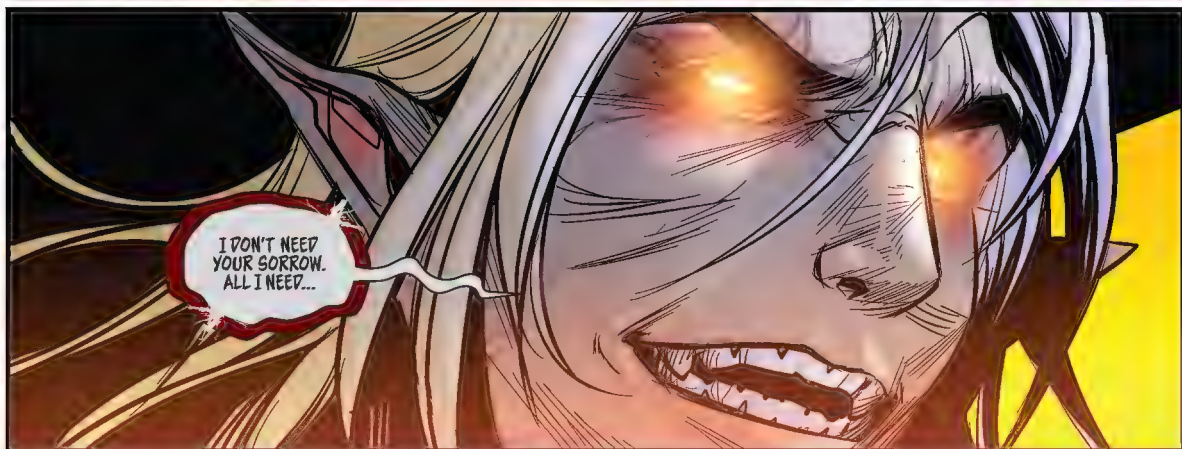
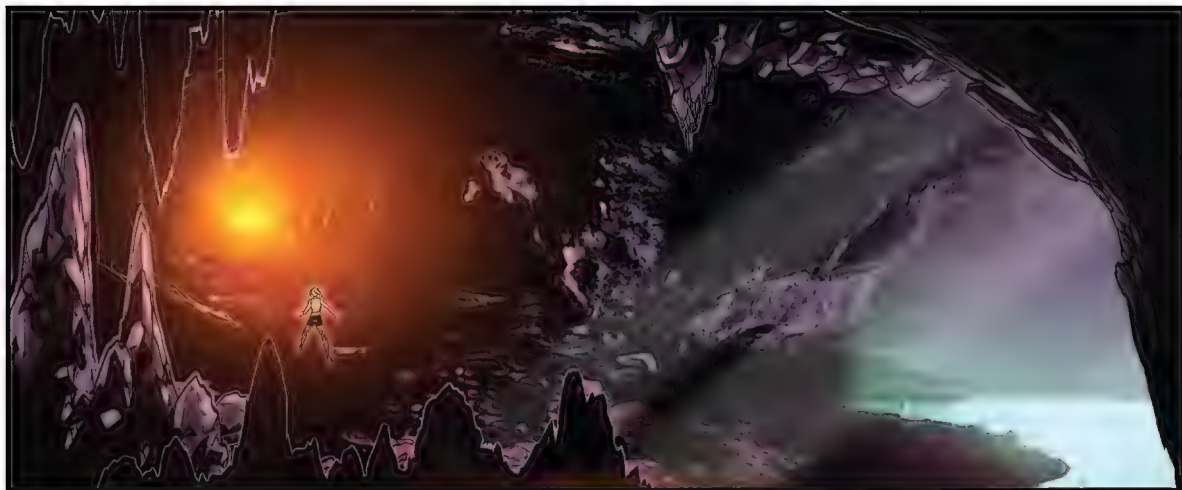
STOP!  
WHAT'S  
DOWN  
THERE?

THE ONLY  
THING LEFT.  
YOU'D  
UNDERSTAND.  
YOU WILL.  
ONE DAY.













...IS YOUR  
BLOOD.



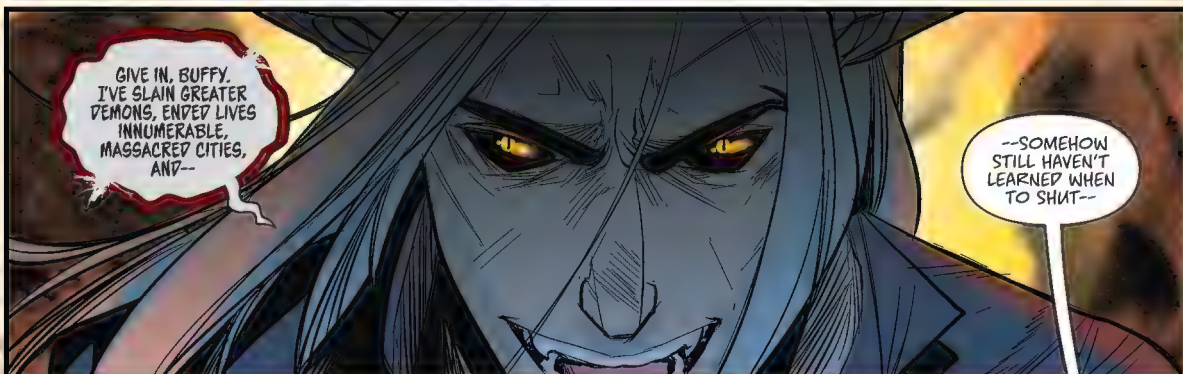




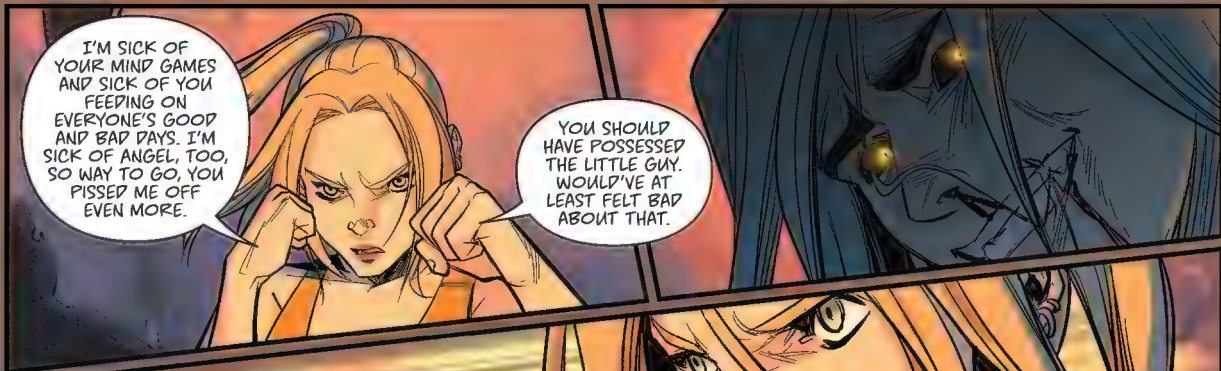
# CHAPTER **FIVE**





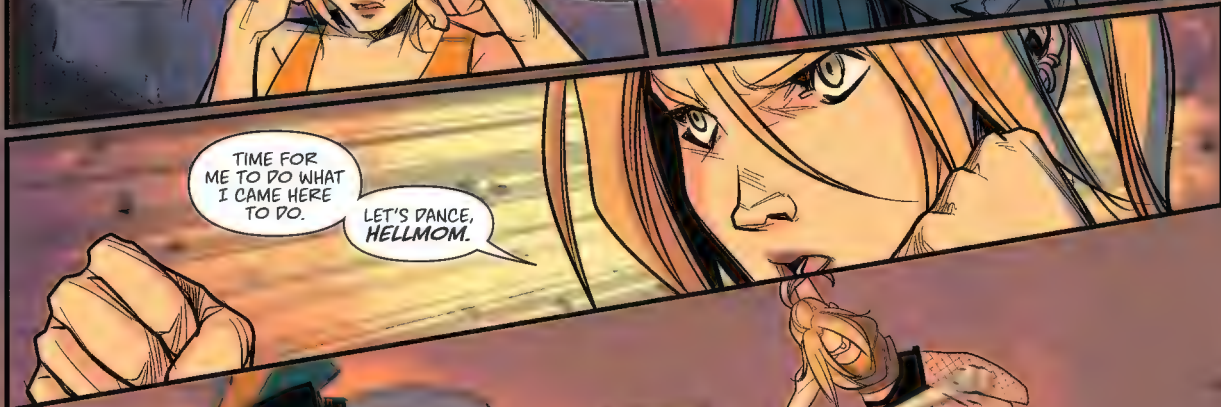






I'M SICK OF YOUR MIND GAMES AND SICK OF YOU FEEDING ON EVERYONE'S GOOD AND BAD DAYS. I'M SICK OF ANGEL, TOO, SO WAY TO GO, YOU PISSED ME OFF EVEN MORE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE POSSESSED THE LITTLE GUY. WOULD'VE AT LEAST FELT BAD ABOUT THAT.



TIME FOR ME TO DO WHAT I CAME HERE TO DO.

LET'S DANCE, HELLMOM.

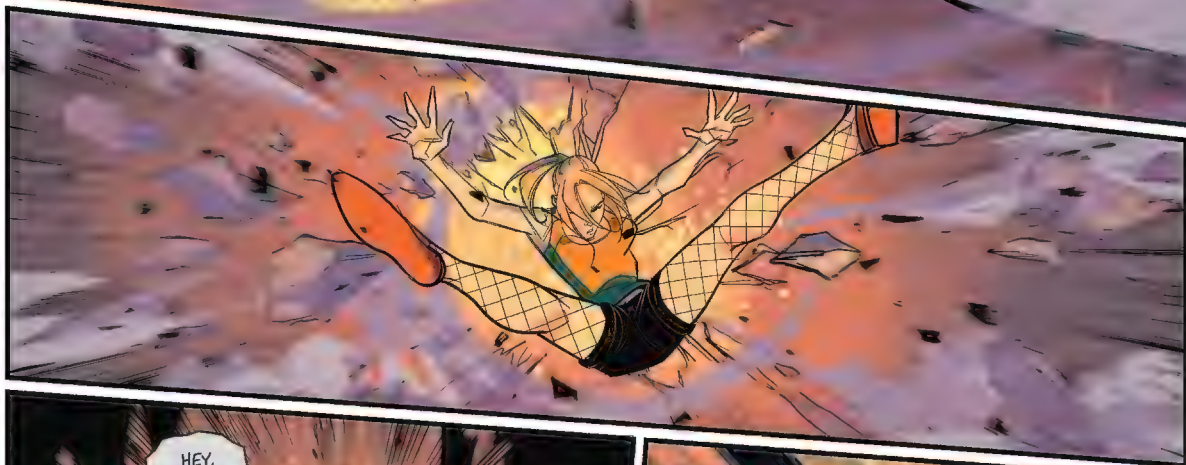
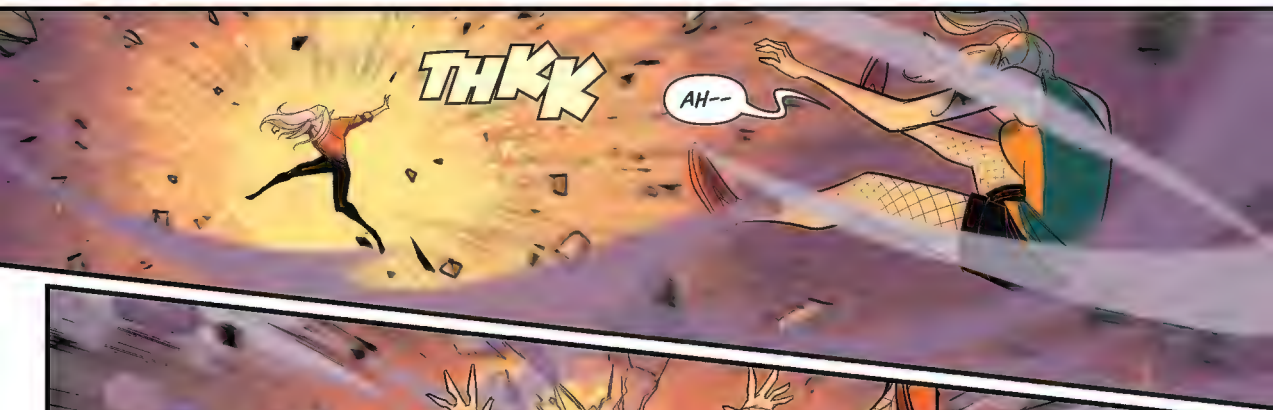


THOOM

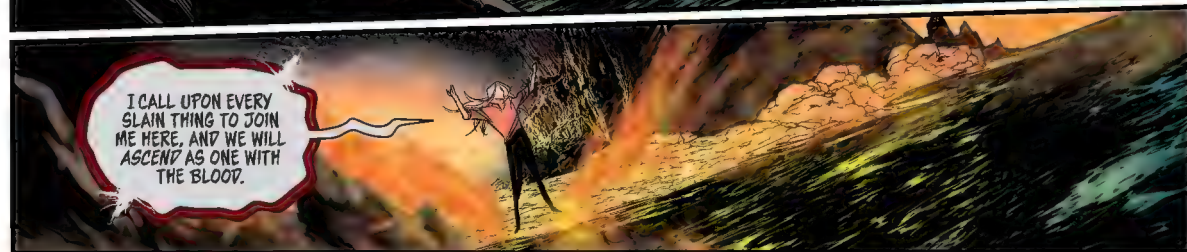
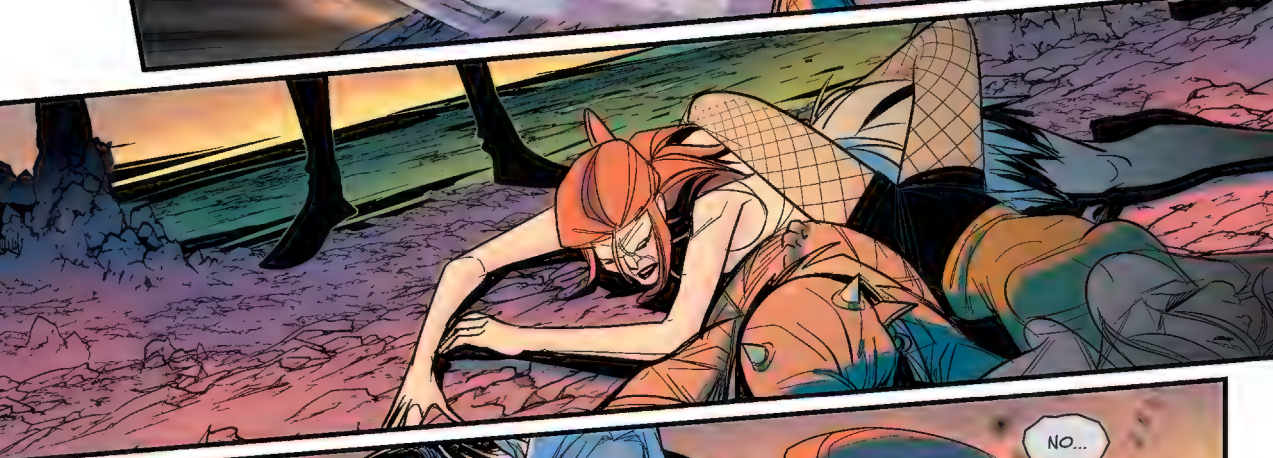
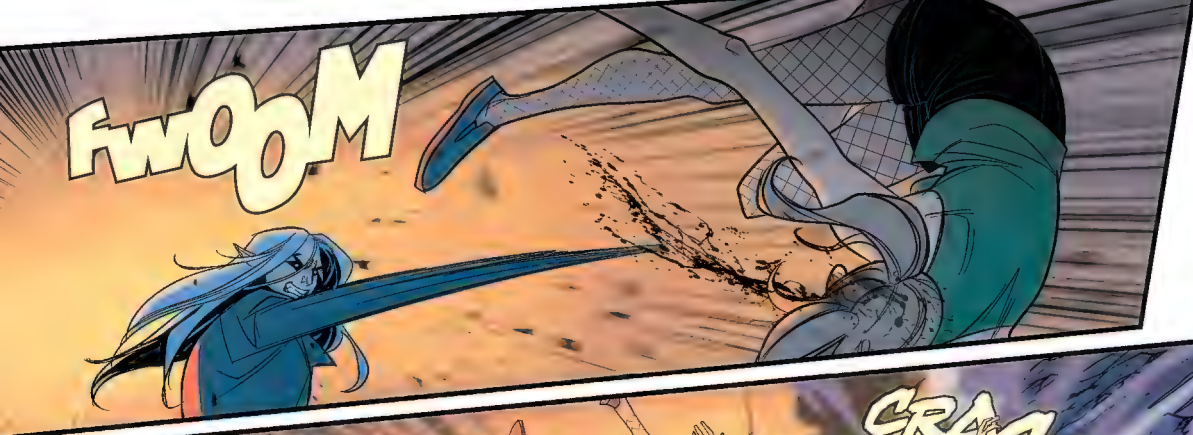


AGH--

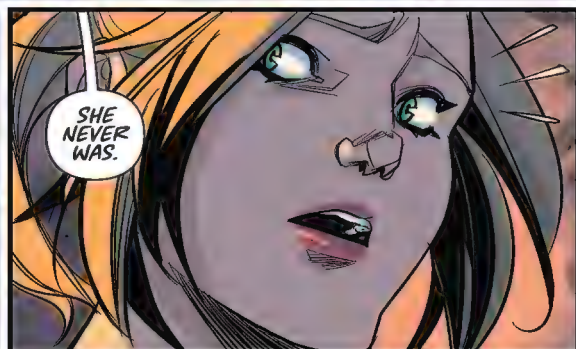
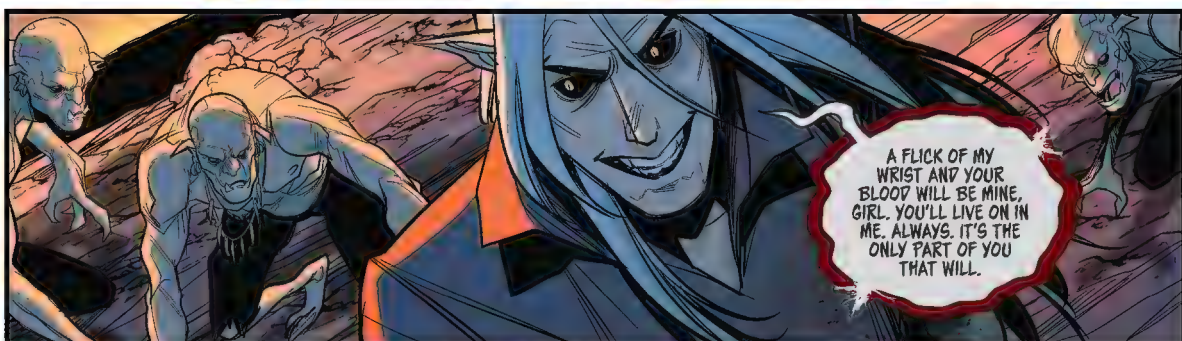
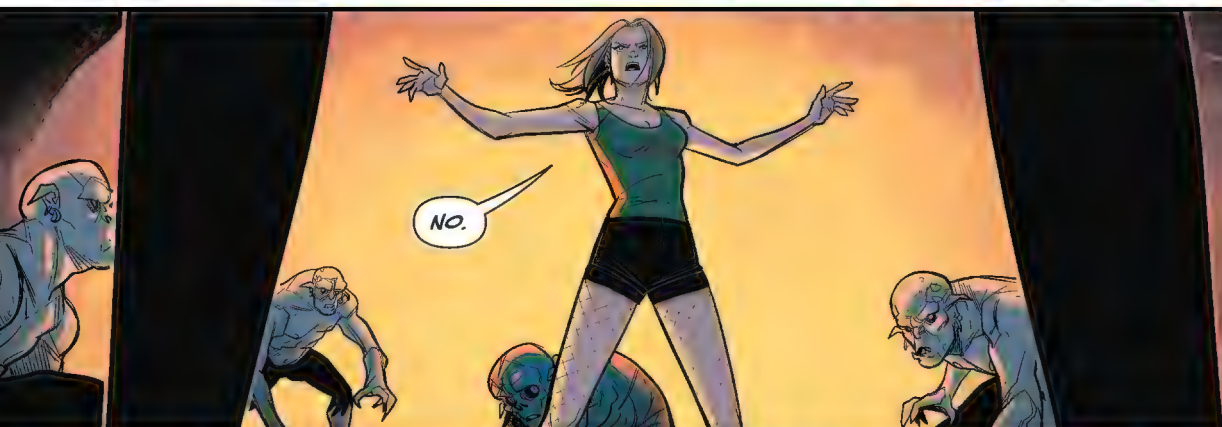
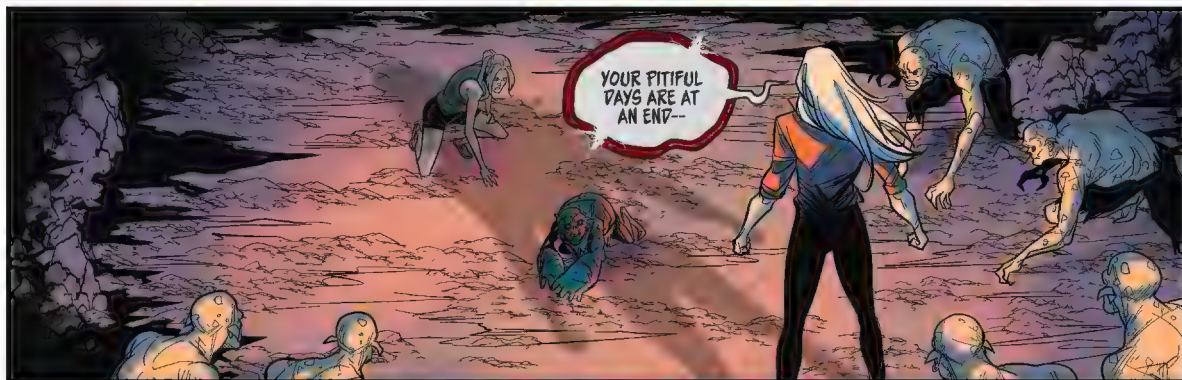
















GET AWAY FROM MY FRIEND.

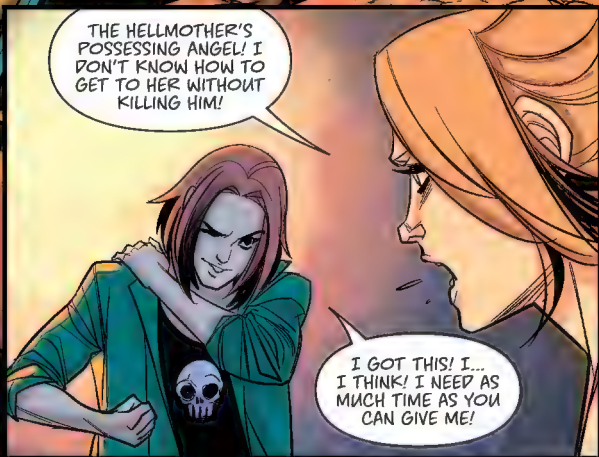
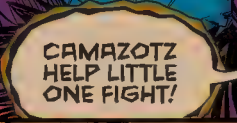
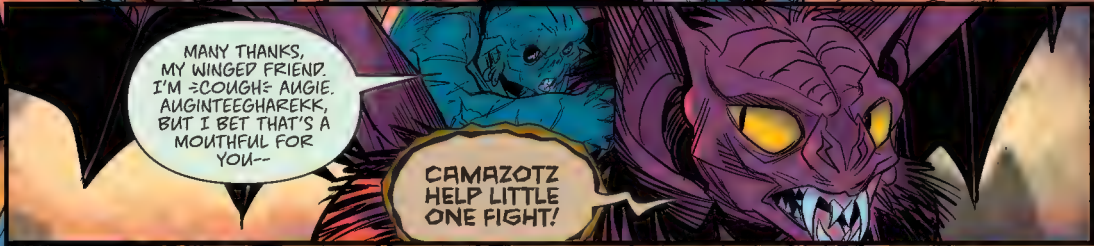
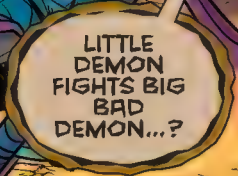
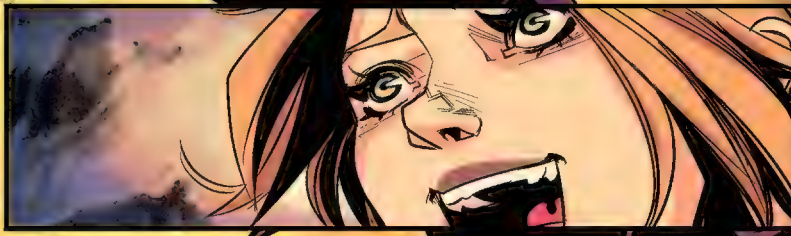
AAAAAH!

CORPY, CHILL!

I THOUGHT WE WERE TRYING TO BE INTIMIDATING!

CAMAZOTZ HELP SLAYER ALWAYS!







CHAAARGE!

HAHAHA!

TUNIVERS

UH, CORDY, YOU OKAY OVER THERE?

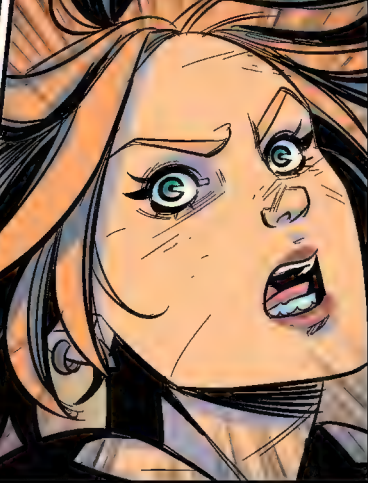
OH, I BONKED MY HEAD AT TUNIVERSE YESTERDAY, I TOTALLY HAVE TO STILL BE KNOCKED OUT ON THE FLOOR OR SOMETHING. THIS IS NUTS!

BRING HER DOWN!

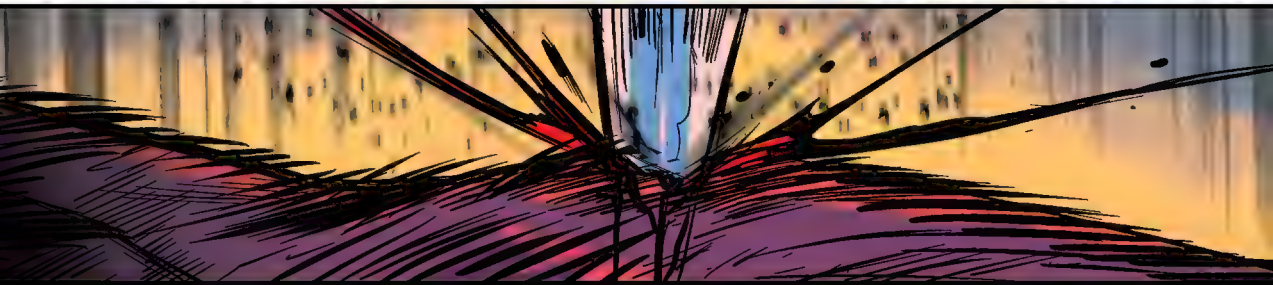
YOU DON'T GOTTA TELL ME TWICE!

CRUNCH

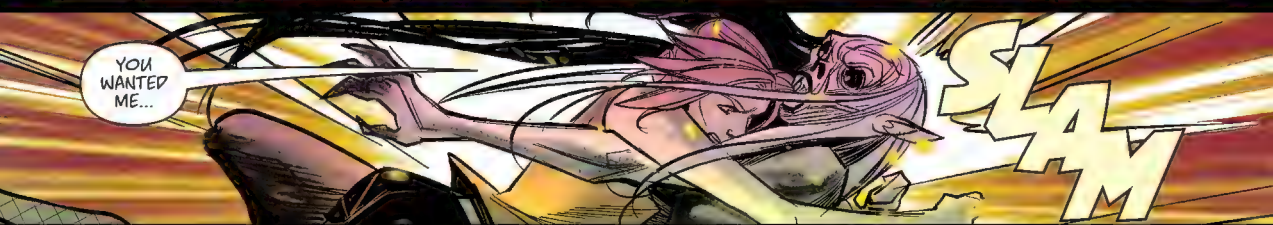
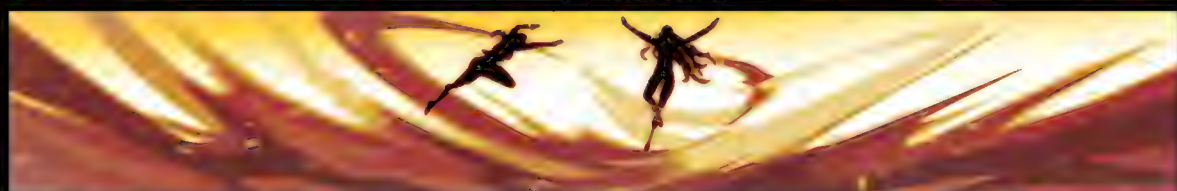
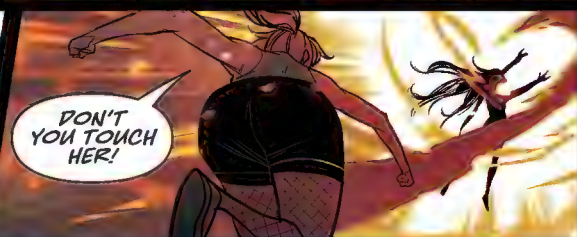
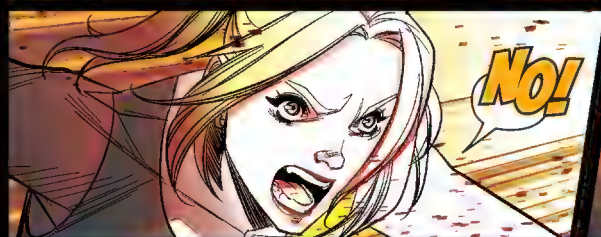
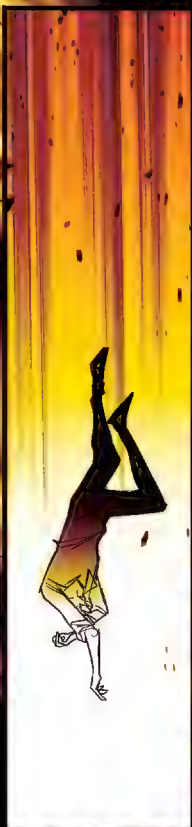
















...YOU GOT ME!

BUFFY!

SLAYER!

HOLD ON!



"THAT LAKE..."



...WHERE DOES IT GO?

ON.

AND PAST THAT... NO ONE KNOWS.

IS THAT...

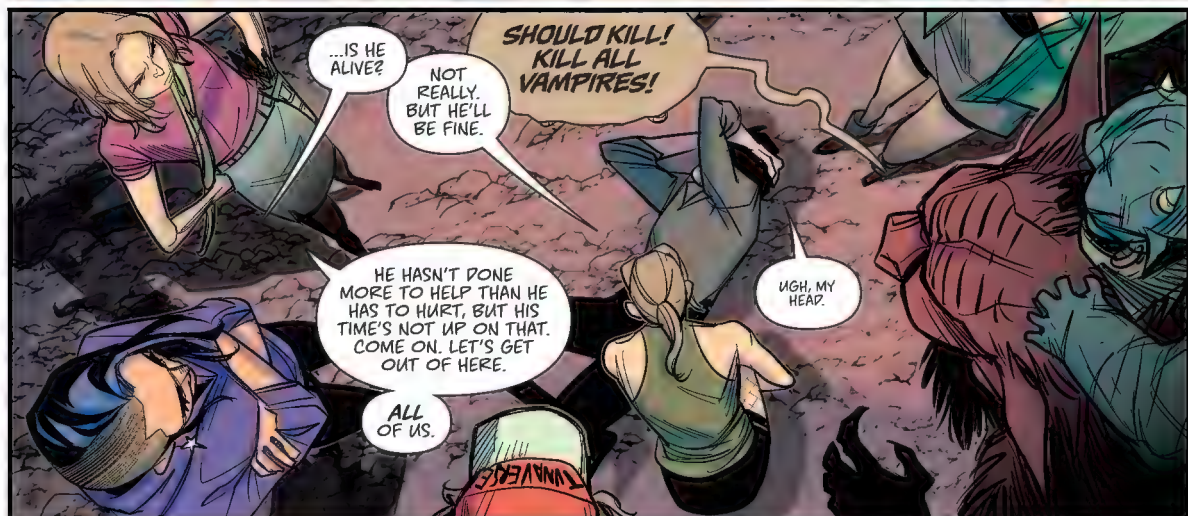
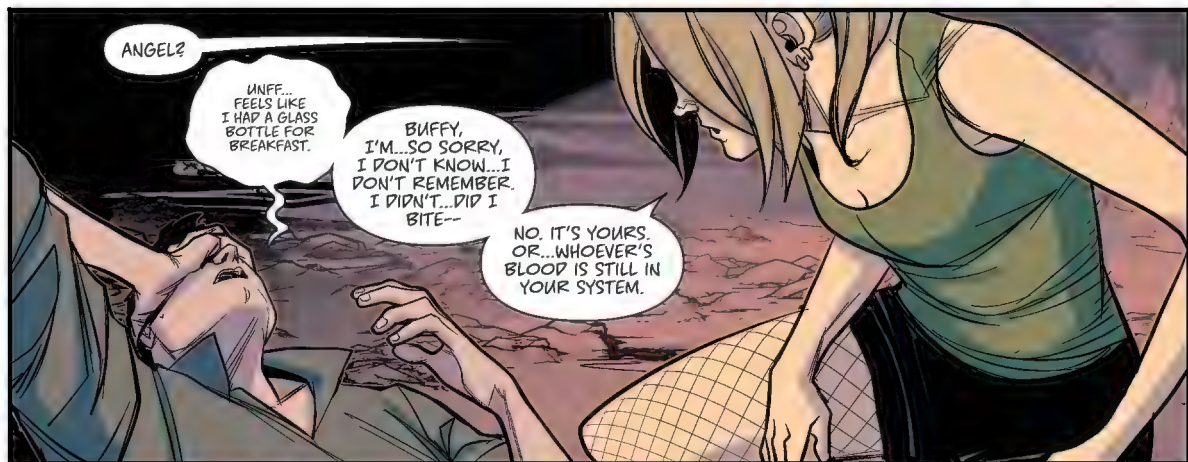
ANOTHER BUFFY?



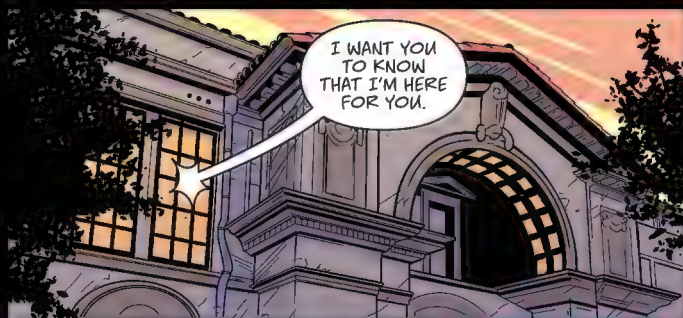
THREE SLAYERS?!

I'M STARTING TO THINK I'M NOT KNOCKED OUT.









I WANT YOU  
TO KNOW  
THAT I'M HERE  
FOR YOU.

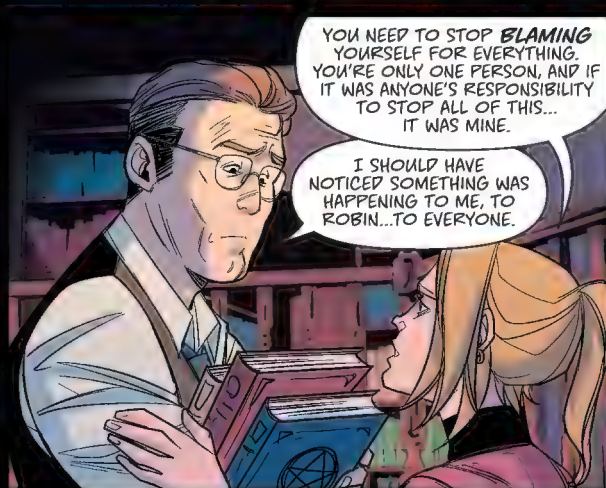


I WASN'T  
MYSELF, AND  
THERE'S NO WAY  
I CAN MAKE IT  
UP TO YOU.



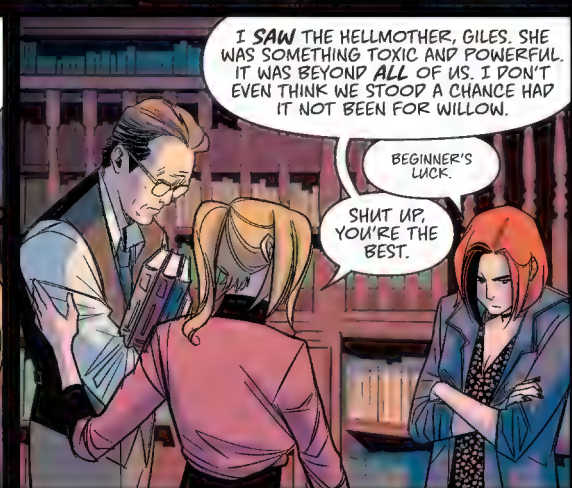
IT WASN'T ON  
YOU, GILES. IT  
WAS ON ME.

XANDER  
SHOULD BE  
HERE.



YOU NEED TO STOP **BLAMING**  
YOURSELF FOR EVERYTHING.  
YOU'RE ONLY ONE PERSON, AND IF  
IT WAS ANYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY  
TO STOP ALL OF THIS...  
IT WAS MINE.

I SHOULD HAVE  
NOTICED SOMETHING WAS  
HAPPENING TO ME, TO  
ROBIN... TO EVERYONE.



I **SAW** THE HELLMOTHER, GILES. SHE  
WAS SOMETHING TOXIC AND POWERFUL.  
IT WAS BEYOND **ALL** OF US. I DON'T  
EVEN THINK WE STOOD A CHANCE HAD  
IT NOT BEEN FOR WILLOW.

BEGINNER'S  
LUCK.

SHUT UP,  
YOU'RE THE  
BEST.

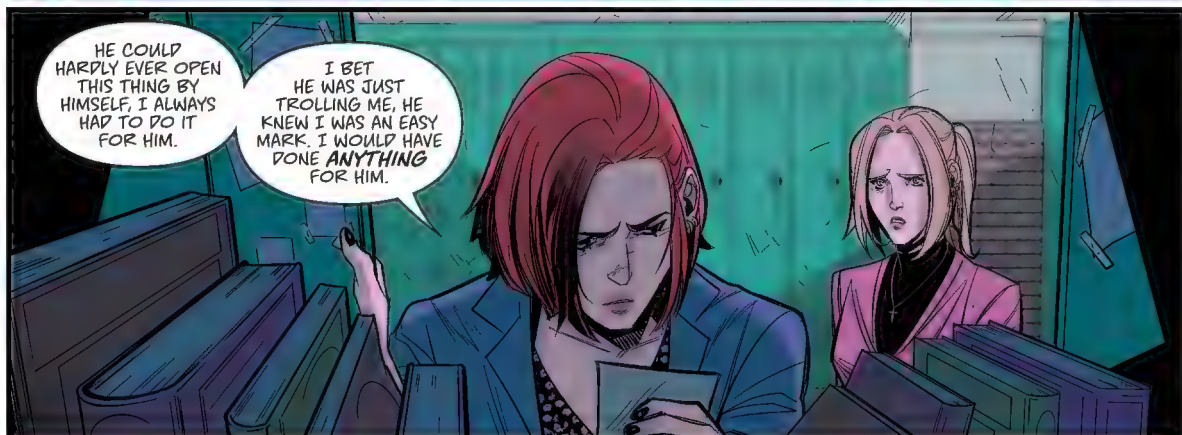








WILLOW?  
ARE YOU  
OK?

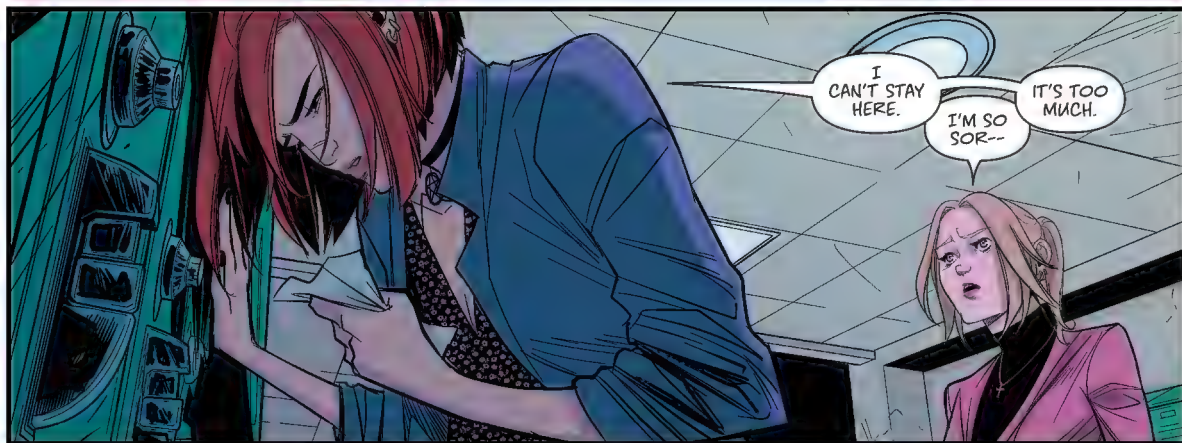


HE COULD  
HARDLY EVER OPEN  
THIS THING BY  
HIMSELF, I ALWAYS  
HAD TO DO IT  
FOR HIM.

I BET  
HE WAS JUST  
TROLLING ME, HE  
KNEW I WAS AN EASY  
MARK. I WOULD HAVE  
DONE **ANYTHING**  
FOR HIM.



AND HE  
FELT THE  
SAME.

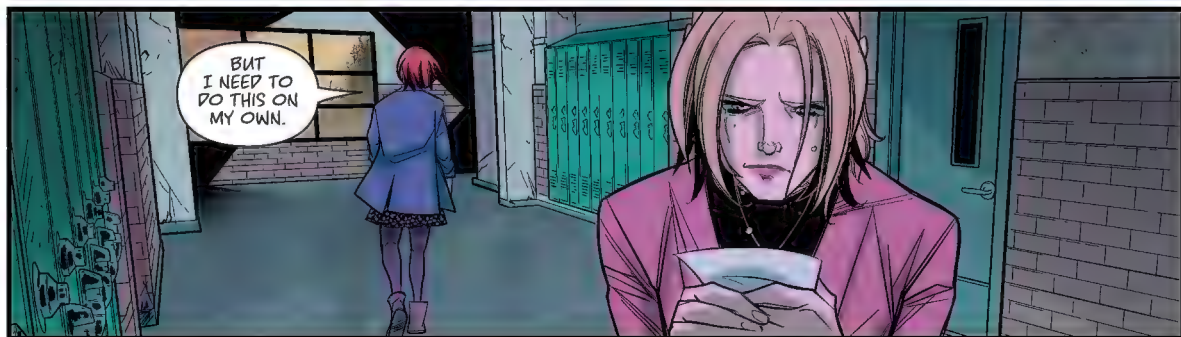
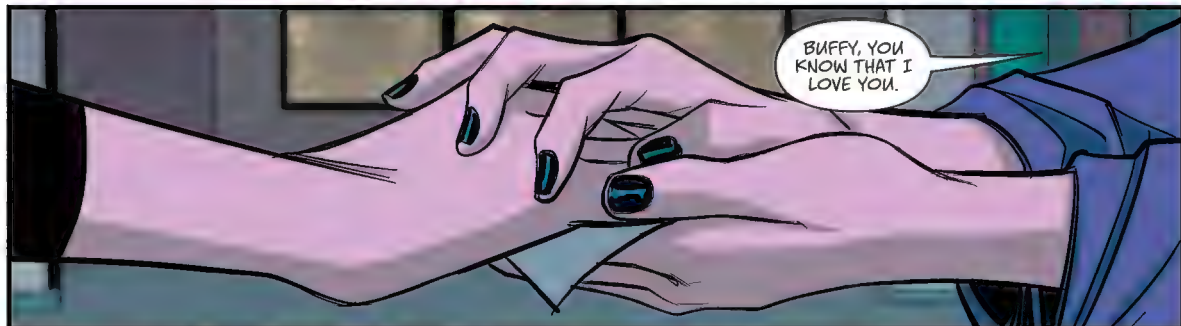
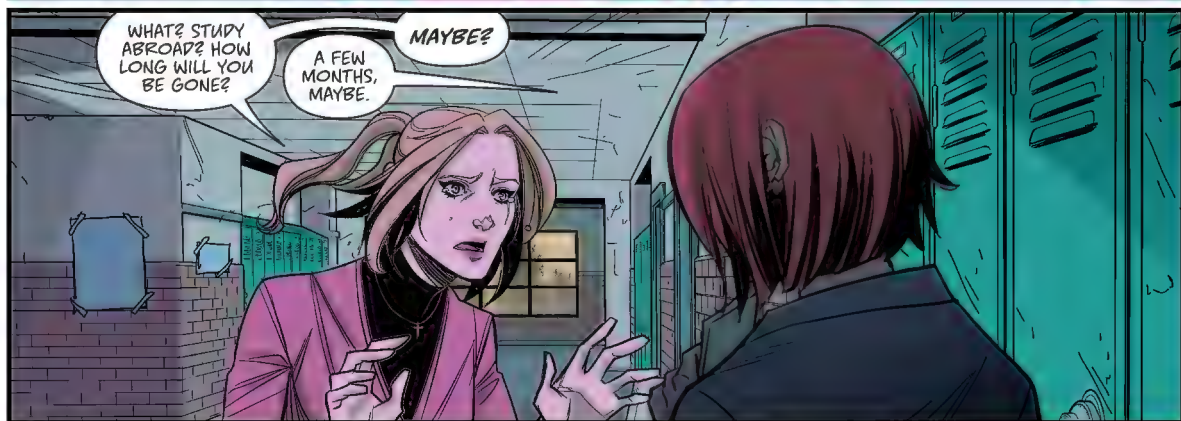
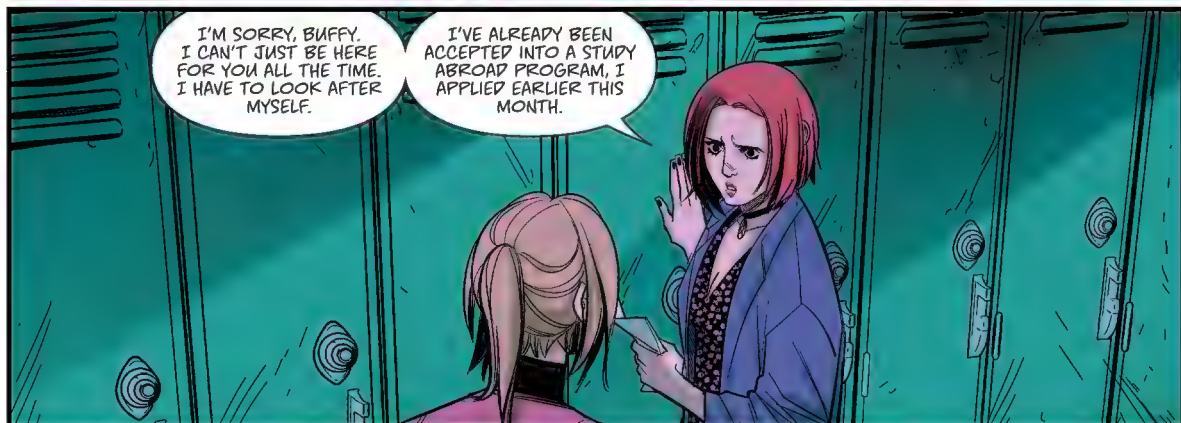
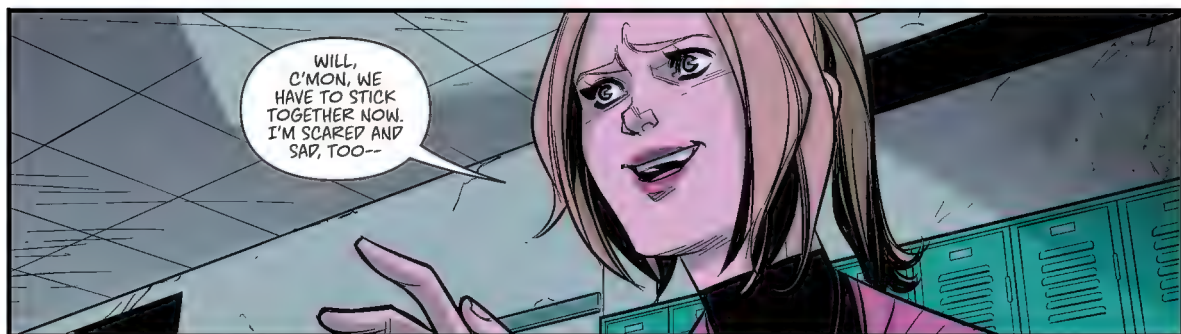


I  
CAN'T STAY  
HERE.

I'M SO  
SOR--

IT'S TOO  
MUCH.

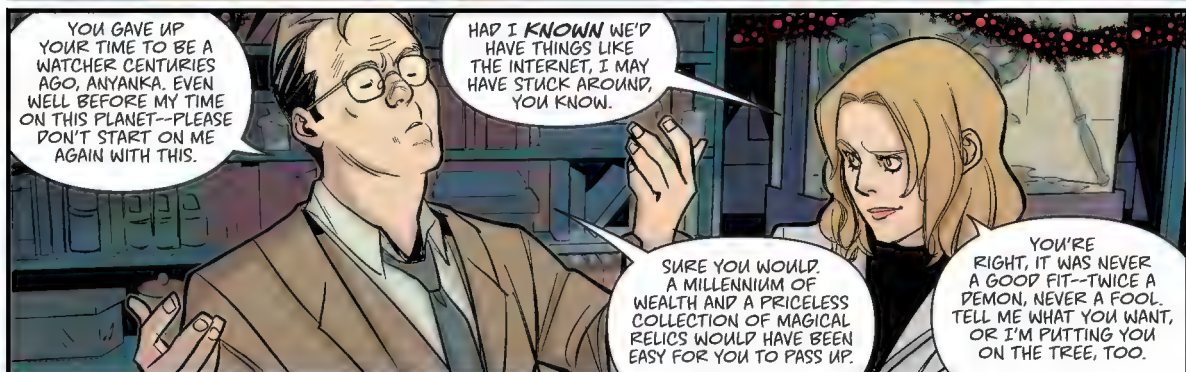




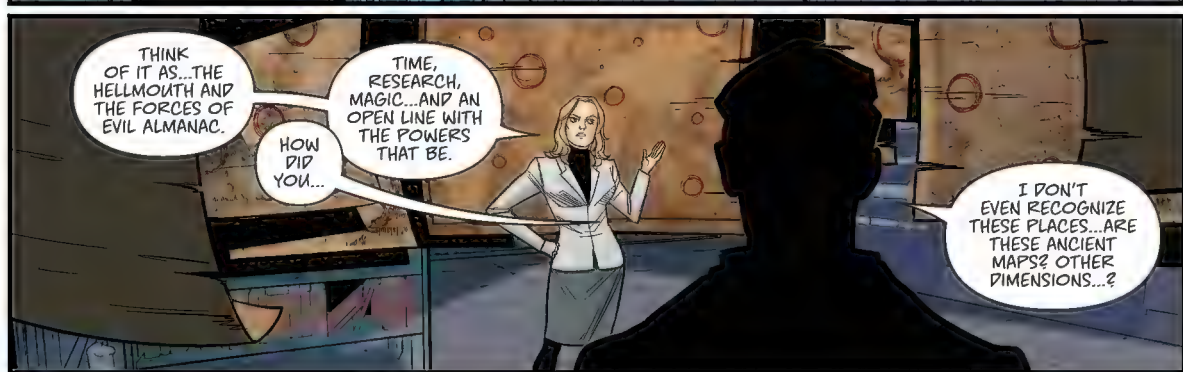
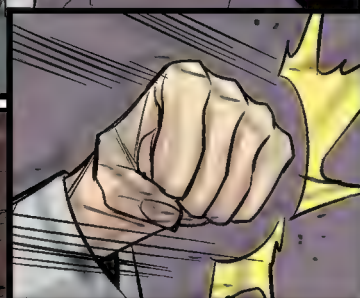
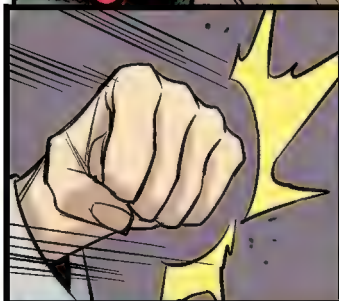




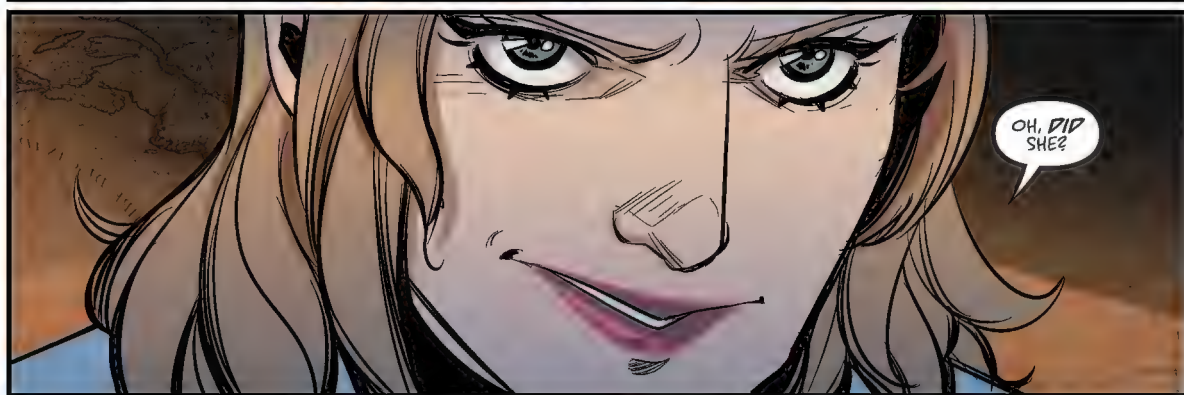
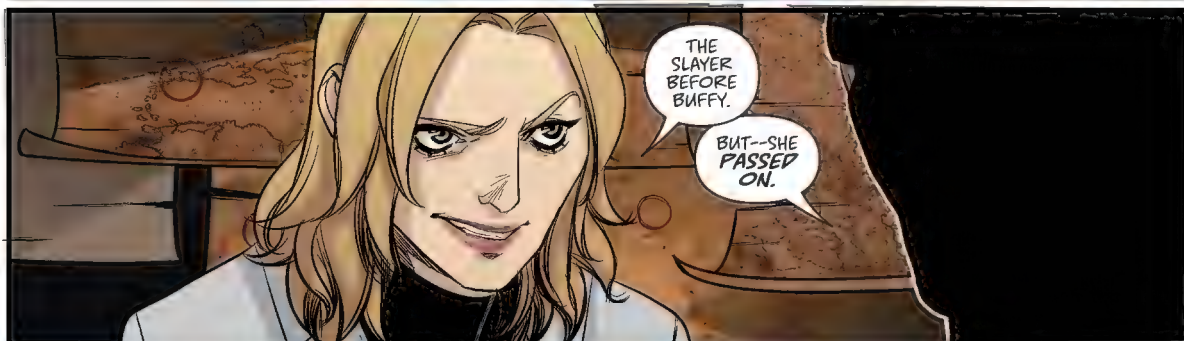
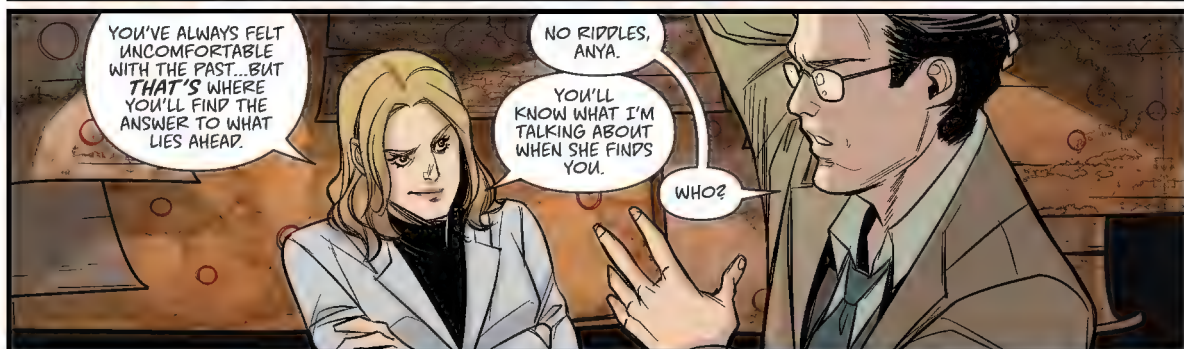
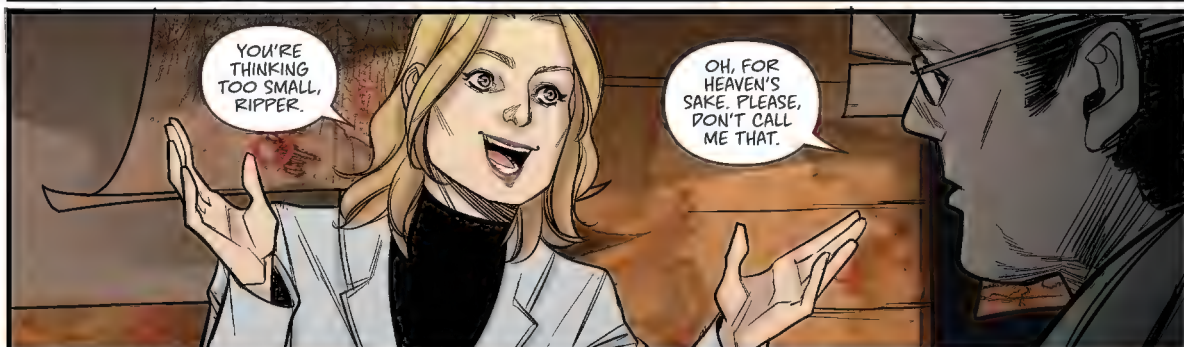














# EPILOGUE



WRITTEN BY

**JORDIE BELLAIRE**

ILLUSTRATED BY

**MARCO RENNA**

COLORED BY

**MATTIA IACONO**

LETTERED BY

**ED DUKESHIRE**



# SUNNYDALE.

THIS TOWN IS SO SMALL. ALWAYS THE SAME ROUTINE.



GUH, I ONLY KNOW LIKE ONE PERSON--AND IT'S YOU.

HEY, IT'S QUITTING TIME, DO YOU WANNA MAYBE--

GET A DRINK? NO THANKS.



BUT I WOULDN'T TURN DOWN A BURGER.

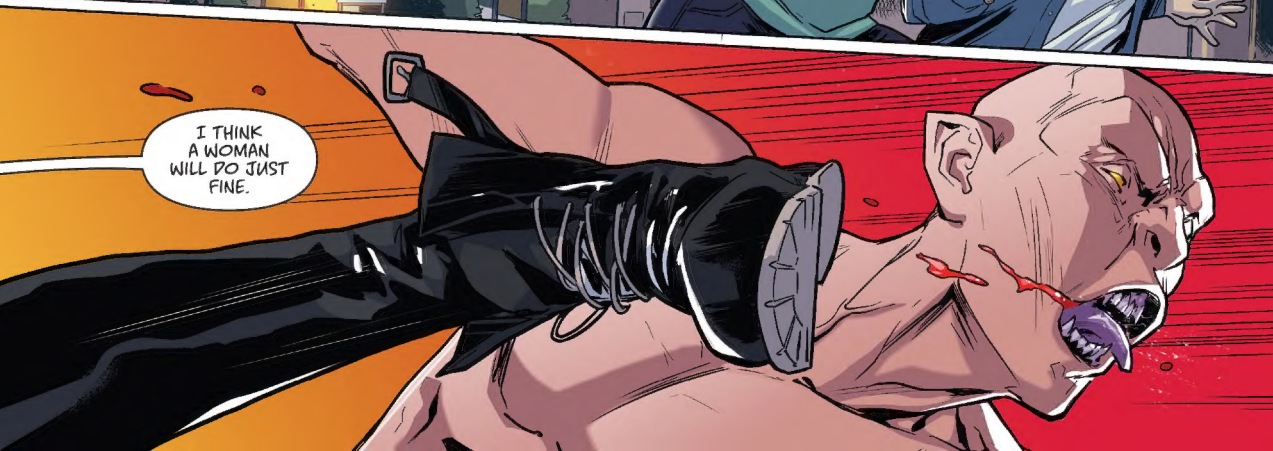
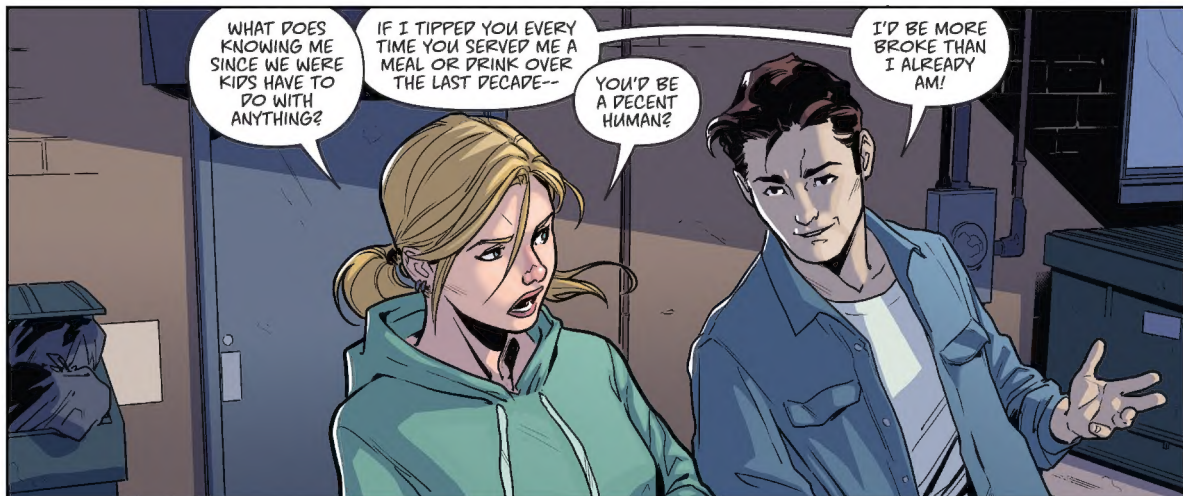
SURE, IT'S ON ME.

YOU BET. YOU WERE THE ONLY PERSON I SERVED TONIGHT AND YOU DON'T EVEN TIP.

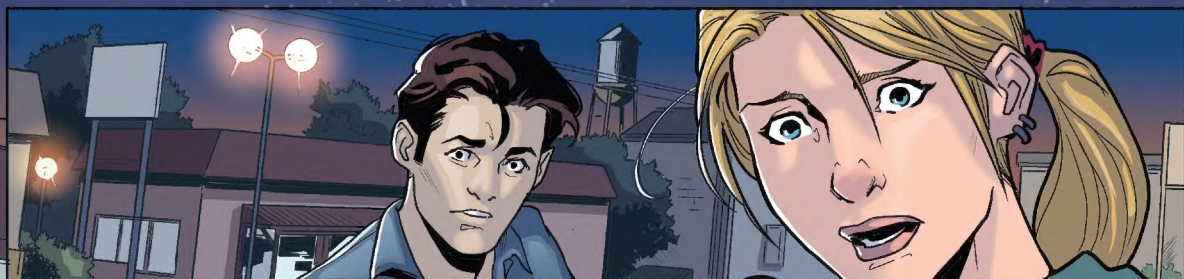
I'VE KNOWN YOU SINCE WE WERE EIGHT, AM I SUPPOSED TO TIP?

















# BUFFY AND ANGEL MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME—BUT ARE THEY FRIENDS OR ENEMIES?

Buffy and Angel meet face-to-face in the world-ending event hundreds of years in the making—the opening of the gates to the Hellmouth!

Buffy and her Scooby Gang will have to muster all their strength as they deal with an open Hellmouth that threatens the lives of everyone they love in Sunnydale. Meanwhile, Angel, the vampire cursed with a soul, arrives in town to find his redemption by doing whatever it takes to close the Hellmouth...and no human, demon or Slayer will stand in his way.

Writers **Jordie Bellaire** (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Redlands*) & **Jeremy Lambert** (*Doom Patrol*) and artist **Eleonora Carlini** (*Saban's Go Go Power Rangers*) bring Buffy and Angel face-to-face in the first ever comic book event featuring Joss Whedon's pop culture icons! Collects *Hellmouth* #1-5.



"...truly the start of something dark, weird, and wonderful."

—Black Nerd Problems

"...if you are an old school Angel fan, then get ready to sing your heart out, baby."

—AiPT!

"A blast for new & old fans"

—CBR

"...writers Jordie Bellaire and Jeremy Lambert cut the tension with well-placed humor in the dialogue between Angel and Buffy."

—ComicBook.com

